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PHOTOS — CANADIAN EMBASSY IN UKRAINE

Left: Canadian International Trade Minister Jim Peterson (left) is greeted by Ukraine's Prime Minister Yuri Yekhanurov. Right: Canadian Defense Minister Bill Graham (right) walks with his Ukrainian counterpart, Anatoliy Hrytsenko.

Canada helps Ukraine fast-track to NATO, WTO

Ministers Graham, Peterson visit Kyiv within days of each other

By Marco Levytsky

Canada is hoping to fast-track Ukraine's accession to both NATO and the World Trade Organization.

International Trade Minister Jim Peterson and Defence Minister Bill Graham both visited Ukraine within two days of each other to confer with their Ukrainian counterparts on how best to help Ukraine become a member of these international bodies.

In a telephone interview with Ukrainian News Oct. 21, Graham said wanted to discuss how to assist Ukraine's NATO bid with Ukrainian Defence Minister Anatoliy Hrytsenko prior to the Oct. 24 meeting of NATO defence ministers in Vilnius, to which Hrytskenko was invited.

In between Graham's Oct. 14-17 visits and the defence minister's meeting, NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer on Oct. 19 came to Kyiv to meet with Hrytsenko and Foreign Minister Borys Tarasyuk.

"We'll keep pushing from our end to encourage our NATO partners to get Ukraine in as quickly as possible and we'll keep helping Ukraine with the preparation so that they can be ready and meet the requirements of NATO as we go forward," Graham told Ukrainian News.

He said that "there are some substantial reform elements that have to be achieved in Ukraine itself before it could demonstrate that it would meet the benchmarks for NATO."

Key among these is reducing the numbers while increasing the efficiency of Ukraine's armed forces, achieving civilian control and converting from a conscript to a contract system of recruitment.

What Ukraine needs most from Canada is help in training.

Graham said Hrytsenko was interested in getting a high level person from his ministry to attend the war college in Toronto and recommended a program under which Ukrainian military units can form special relationships with their counterparts in Canada.

"What I would look for is a unit out West ...where there are Ukrainian speakers ...who would be interested in establishing contacts with a unit that then the Ukrainians would identify and they could have exchanges," he told Ukrainian News.

"It's very much an idea that's in the formation, but I think that's an idea with some exciting potential," added the minister.

Asked whether Ukraine's entry into NATO would cause problems with Russia, Graham replied:

"Clearly Russia is not anxious for Ukraine to join NATO. That was made clear to me when I was in Moscow by the Russian defence \minister, and there's no more interest in seeing Ukraine join NATO than there was in seeing Hungary, Poland or any other country join NATO.

"But our point to the Russian when we speak to them is: 'Look NATO expansion in terms of countries like Ukraine and the countries of Eastern Europe is all about creating stability, civilian control over the military the establishment of democratic values in their countries and this is not a threat to Russia, or in any way designed to be a threat against Russia. It's all about helping those countries democratize and move forward.' So, I think, basically the only thing we can say is that we've agreed to disagree with the Russians on this point."

Peterson told Ukrainian News in an Oct. 18 telephone interview, that one of the principle goals of his visit was to "perk" Ukraine on the question of WTO accession. "We are very supportive of their efforts to become a member of that organization," he said.

A WTO conference in Hong Kong Dec. 13-18 is expected to be a key

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Святкування 63-ї річниці УПА обернулося побоїщем

(ForUm)—Святкування 63-ї річниці створення УПА в центрі Києва 15–го жовтня обернулося прогнозованим побоїщем.

Урочистий хід від Бессарабської площі по Хрещатику – спільна акція Братства воїнів ОУН-УПА, Союзу офіцерів України і УНА-УНСО, обернувся неприємностями. Між собою зчепилися представники ОУН-УПА, ПСПУ і КПУ. Зупинити «війну» не змогли навіть спецпідрозділи «Барс» та міліція.

Картина на Хрещатику нагадувала військове зіткнення. Лише через деякий час правоохоронцям вдалося розняти учасників протиборчих сторін на Хрещатику і ввести наряди міліції між представниками ОУН-УПА, ПСПУ і КПУ.

Екс-віце-прем'єр Микола Томенко заявив, що про примирення радянських воїнів і воїнів Української повстанської армії в найближче десятиліття можна тільки мріяти.

На його думку, причина неможливості примирення найближчим часом - в неготовності на сьогодні до примирення як самих воїнів, так і суспільства, яке не знає повної правди про війну.

"Я на стороні історичного примирення, але на відміну від Президента, вважаю, що примирення не можна організувати під конкретну дату. Не можна просто вийти і сказати: "Шановні друзі, обніміться, помиріться!" Не помиряться вони так.

"Мій дід, який під Сталінградом загинув, напевно вважав би, що вони (воїни УПА) зрадники і бандити, а ті люди, які в Західній Україні захищали свої будинки, вважають, що більшовики - бандити, які прийшли до Західної України. Вони вб'ють краще один-одного, чим помиряться. Для того, що б помирити, спочатку має бути розуміння людьми того, що відбулося, а потім примирення. Треба, що б все суспільство знало, що відбулося тоді в країні - в 40-х і в 30-х роках. А поки суспільство не знає цієї правди, ми без фактів маємо лише позиції різні: живемо різними уявленнями про цю війну. Поки це тема, яка розколює, а не об'єднує людей. Мій прогноз такий, що в найближчі, умовно кажучи, 10 років, про це можна тільки мріяти", - заявив Томенко.

При цьому Томенко відзначив, що категорично проти "загальнонаціональних дискусій і шоу на каналах з цими воюючими літніми людьми". На його думку, кращий шлях для примирення - надання громадянам України можливості скласти об'єктивне уявлення про те, що відбувалося в роки Другої світової війни за допомогою документальних фільмів, в яких була б об'єктивно показана як боротьба УПА, так і партизанська війна, повідомляє УНІАН.

Томенко також вважає за доцільне проводити в регіонах, де воїнів УПА вважають героями, виплати ветеранам повстанської армії з місцевих бюджетів як ветеранам і інвалідам війни.

"Я говорив губернаторам 3 галицьких областей: "Ви повинні мати список цих людей і якщо в області 90% жителів вважають, що вони - герої, з місцевого бюджету доплатіть просто їм: адже вони інваліди або учасники бойових дій. Це вихід з ситуації, а якщо ви хочете, що б у Києві підняли прапор і сказали, що хтось правий, а хтось ні, то так не буває. Не прийме Верховна Рада такого рішення - це політичне рішення", - пояснив Томенко.

Нагадаємо, раніше уряд схвалив законопроект про визнання ОУН-УПА воюючою стороною в роки Другої світової війни. Ветеранам боїв, що відносяться до цієї категорії, пропонується виплачувати грошову допомогу, рівну тому, яку одержують інваліди та учасники ВВВ.

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За бійку на Хрещатику відповідатимуть організатори мітингів

(ForUm)—Міністр внутрішніх справ України Юрій Луценко заявив, що за бійку в центрі Києва 15 жовтня під час акції комуністів і ПСПУ проти реабілітації ОУН-УПА відповідатимуть ті, хто поставив свої підписи під заявками на проведення акцій.

Про це Луценко сказав 17-го жовтня в ефірі "5 каналу", коментуючи вимогу лідера ПСПУ Наталії Вітренко порушити кримінальну справу відносно міліціонерів за перевищення повноважень під час проведення мітингів минулої суботи, повідомляє «Інтерфакс-Україна».

"Наскільки я бачив на всіх оперативних зйомках, на всіх публічних зйомках, співробітники міліції заважали бити один одного двом різним ідеологічним політичним силам, які зійшлися згідно з рішенням суду в один момент на Хрещатику з абсолютно полярною метою. В таких зіткненнях співробітники міліції затримували хуліганів і роз'єднували ці політичні сторони, не заважаючи їм, власне, мітингувати", - сказав міністр.

Він висловив думку, що, "дії як одних, так і інших організаторів подій на Хрещатику носять ознаки порушень тих заявок, які вони подавали на адресу Київської міської адміністрації".

"Вони обіцяли мирну демонстрацію, а не напади палицями на своїх опонентів. Думаю, що за це потрібно притягати до відповідальності тих, хто поставив свої підписи під відповідними заявками. Впевнений, що так воно і буде", - наголосив Луценко.

Говорячи про заяви Вітренко, міністр сказав: "Про жінок треба говорити або добре, або ніяк. Тим більше що я не лікар".

Як повідомлялося, голова Прогресивної соціалістичної партії України Вітренко вимагає від президента України Віктора Ющенка порушити кримінальну справу відносно міліціонерів за перевищення повноважень під час акції ПСПУ проти реабілітації українських націоналістів 15 жовтня на Майдані незалежності.

15 жовтня представники націонал-патріотичних сил провели в Києві заходи, присвячені 63-й річниці Української повстанської армії. При проведенні акції їм активно протистояли активісти ПСПУ, КПУ, молодіжної організації "Прорив", Конфедерації праці України і Союзу православних громадян України. В центрі Києва сталися зіткнення між Компартією України і прогресивними соціалістами з одного боку і націонал-патріотами з іншого. Після цього демонстрантів розділили по обидві сторони Майдану.

З лав прихильників комуністів звучали звинувачення на адресу націонал-патріотів, доходило до сутичок. Деякі пускали в хід не тільки кулаки, але й залишки поламаних прапорів. Правопорядок забезпечували міліціонери і співробітники спецпідрозділу "Барс" в касках і жилетах. Ветеранів УПА не пустили до пам'ятника Незалежності, і вони провели молебень на Хрещатику, а потім розійшлися. На площі залишилися прихильники комуністів і ПСПУ. Загалом на площі збиралося понад 10 тис. осіб.

Кабмін визначився, що робити з воїнами УПА

(Українська правда)—Урядова комісія на чолі з віце-прем'єром В'ячеславом Кириленком схвалила висновок робочої групи істориків, що вивчала діяльність ОУН та УПА.

За словами Кириленка, "це офіційний історичний висновок, який тепер є підґрунтям для офіційної оцінки діяльності ОУН-УПА впродовж Другої світової війни".

Також комісія підтримала проект закону "Про внесення змін до закону "Про статус ветеранів війни, гарантії їхнього соціального захисту".

Цей законопроект був запропонований міністерством праці та соціальної політики. Він передбачає надання належних соціальних гарантій воїнам Української повстанської армії. Остаточне рішення щодо законопроекту повинна ухвалювати Верховна Рада.

В той же час, 15-го жовтня головою партії УНА-УНСО було вдруге обрано Юрія Шухевича, сина командувача УПА .

Щодо єднання та блокування з іншими політичними партіями перед початком передвиборчої кампанії, остаточного рішення ще немає.

В той же час, партія має намір зареєструвати в міністерстві юстиції свою повну назву. В даний час УНА-УНСО офіційно зареєстрована як політична партія Українська національна асамблея.

Ющенку радять вирішити з Тимошенко, хто буде прем'єром

(Українська правда)—Екс-представник президента в парламенті, член ПРП Сергій Соболєв вважає, що сили Ющенка і Тимошенко повинні йти на вибори єдиним блоком або укласти договір про коаліцію в парламенті.

Таку думку Соболєв висловив в інтерв'ю "Без цензури".

Коментуючи пропозицію Романа Безсмертного про поновлення Блоку "Наша Україна" у форматі 2002 року, Соболєв заявив, що блок повинен бути у форматі коаліції "Сила народу", що перемогла на президентських виборах.

"Ми вважаємо, що саме ті іспити, що ми разом пережили під час президентської виборчої кампанії в рамках коаліції "Сила народу", дають підстави стверджувати, що тільки в такій конфігурації можна боротися, щоб справді одержати більше 50 відсотків голосів і в парламенті, і на місцевому рівні", - відзначив Соболєв.

Він також підкреслив, що поновлення коаліції "Сила народу" є "питанням принциповим", щоб наступним прем'єр-міністром не став Янукович.

"Якщо ми будемо діяти за іншим сценарієм, то наступним прем'єром буде Янукович", - зазначив піарпіст.

"Якщо Блок Ющенка і Блок Тимошенко не домовляться між собою, то вони підуть домовлятися з Януковичем. Іншими словами, розкол табору "помаранчевих" на руку Януковичу. Якщо ми цього не хочемо, то має відбутися об'єднання в таборі "помаранчевих", - додав він.

У той же час, за його словами, "відновлення коаліції "Сила народу", вихід на Майдан до людей Ющенка разом з Тимошенко - це набагато більш вагомий фактор перемоги на наступних виборах, ніж будь-які перегрупування, що відбуваються в кожному з таборів".

При цьому Соболєв вважає, що якщо це буде єдиний блок, то потрібно обговорити, хто буде першим номером у списку і хто стане прем'єр-міністром.

"Якщо не виходить єдиний блок, то потрібно вже сьогодні, а не за результатами виборів (коли будуть боротися один з одним ті, хто працюють на одному електораті) підписати угоду в рамках двох блоків. І в цій угоді чітко обумовити: хто займає перше місце, тому і віддадуть право назвати прем'єра", - додав він.

Тимошенко хоче блокуватись з партією Ющенка

(Українська правда)—Лідер БЮТ Юлія Тимошенко заявляє про наміри блокуватися у майбутньому парламенті з "Народним союзом Наша Україна".

Про це вона повідомила 24-го жовтня під час своєї зустрічі з представниками бізнес-кіл, передає УНІАН.

Тимошенко зазначила, що у майбутньому парламенті неможливо буде уникнути блокування між основними політичними силами, представленими в ньому.

"Я дуже хотіла би, щоб після парламентських виборів була знайдена основа для порозуміння та об'єднання між нашими політичними силами (БЮТ та НСНУ)", - зазначила вона.

"Якщо зараз так склалися обставини, що ми роз'єднанні, то це не значить, що після виборів ми не зможемо об'єднатись", - додала Тимошенко.

Вона також спрогнозувала, що парламентські вибори-2006 року проходитимуть "дуже важко".

За її словами, сьогодні є три чітко виражені політичні сили, які зможуть отримати достатню кількість місць в парламенті. Це, зокрема, Партія регіонів, "Наша Україна" та БЮТ.

Тимошенко також зазначила, що, не дивлячись на розходження в оцінці сьогоднішньої ситуації в країні, БЮТ та "Наша Україна" стоять на однакових ідейних засадах, таких як євроінтеграція, членство в СОТ, що допоможе цим двом політичним силам об'єднатися в майбутньому парламенті.

PHOTO — CANADIAN EMBASSY IN UKRAINE

Canadian and Ukrainian Defence Ministry officials confer in Kyiv.

Canada helps Ukraine fast-track

Cont. from P. 1

gathering as far as Ukraine's accession to the WTO is concerned and may indicate the timeline.

"I haven't given up on this year and I this is why I am going to do everything I can to support them getting in as quickly as possible. If they don't make it this year I have every expectation that it could be done early next year," said Peterson.

During his visit, Peterson also discussed a number of initiatives to improve bilateral trade and economic relations between Canada and Ukraine. For more on that see Page 16 of this issue.

Canada announces development initiatives in Ukraine

(UkrNews)—Aileen Carroll, Minister of International Cooperation, on Oct. 16 announced that the Canadian International Development Agency, (CIDA), through Canada Corps, will provide close to $5 million for three initiatives in Ukraine. This is part of Canada's ongoing efforts to help strengthen democracy and good governance in the Ukraine. The Minister made the announcement at Barrie's 7th annual Ukrainian Festival.

"As the people and government of Ukraine lead their own transition to a system of government that respects the rights of its citizens and protects democratic principles, Canada will be there to assist them," said Minister Carroll. "We helped the Ukrainian people make their votes count, and we will continue to stand by them as they work to build a strong, united, and democratic Ukraine."

Further to the announcement, Canada will invest:

• $2.5 million to promote a closer alignment of regional and federal policies in Ukraine. Working with Ukraine's International Centre for Policy Studies, the Conference Board of Canada will build on the analytical base already established through earlier initiatives to help develop the ability to measure and forecast regional and national economic potential and socio-economic performance, using internationally accepted methods. This initiative will share Canadian expertise through Canada Corps.

• Close to $1.5 million to a Canadian Bureau for International Education initiative that mobilizes senior Canadian policy advisors to provide timely and specialized expertise and training in response to requests for assistance from the Government of Ukraine and civil society. This Canada Corps project also supports study tours and short-term training and internships in Canada for Ukrainian officials.

• $750,000 for a project with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe that responds to a request from the Government of Ukraine for assistance in addressing: weaknesses in election legislation and administration; limited opportunities in Ukraine for public participation in policy making; low participation in decision-making by women and youth; high levels of corruption; and limited access to reliable information about government services and policy.

Canada also recently announced a $5.5□million contribution over five□years to a project that supports Ukrainian government departments responsible for regional development to deliver and implement regional development planning and policy-making in a transparent, accountable and democratic manner. The project is managed by the Canadian Urban Institute with support from the Foundation for International Training, the EuroRegion Ukraine and a team of Canadian and Ukrainian administrators.

Telegdi re-elected citizenship committee chair

(UkrNews)—The Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration on Oct. 18 unanimously re-elected Kitchener-Waterloo MP Andrew Telegdi as it's chairperson.

The Committee, made up of MPs from all parties, collaborated to produce and table 12 reports in Parliament during his first term as chair.

Telegdi also led the committee on cross-Canada hearings that gathered the ideas of Canadians from coast to coast on needed changes to the Citizenship Act and to our immigration policies. Their views and those of many other witnesses who appeared before the committee are reflected in the recommendations of the committee reports.

He is a vocal opponent of the government's Denaturalization and Deportation policy which has been used against aging and innocent Ukrainians under the guise of hunting "Nazi war criminals".

Ukraine, NATO finish antiterror drill

(RFE/RL)—Several hundred troops and disaster relief teams from Ukraine, the United States, and 10 other countries Oct. 14 concluded a major NATO-sponsored antiterrorism exercise aimed at practicing joint responses to a chemical attack. The four-day Joint Assistance 2005 drill, which was held near Ukraine's border with NATO-member Poland, concluded with a mock terrorist attack on a chemical facility, gun battles with pretend terrorists, and rescue operations. Troops parachuted out of helicopters, soldiers set off stun grenades, and emergency crews fought a giant plume of fire and smoke. Representatives of the NATO-led Department for Emergency Situations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons were among the participants. Some 30 countries also sent observers to the drill, which included a major deployment of field hospitals, rescue equipment, and armored vehicles.

Rumsfeld backs Ukraine's NATO aspirations

(RFE/RL)—Speaking at a NATO conference in Vilnius on Oct. 23, Donald Rumsfeld highlighted Washington's support for Ukraine's bid to join, international news agencies reported the same day.

In his remarks, Rumsfeld stressed Kyiv's progress on political and military reform.

"Progress [on reform] has been made and we encourage it and are available to be of assistance in various ways," Reuters quoted Rumsfeld as saying at a press conference in Vilnius.

Reuters quoted an unidentified senior U.S. official as saying that Rumsfeld arrived in Lithuania on Oct. 22 — one day earlier than scheduled — to stress Washington's support for Ukraine with the European defense ministers who have been more cautious about Ukraine joining the alliance. Ukraine has said it hopes to join the alliance in 2008, during a tentatively scheduled NATO summit.

Ukraine's Defence Minister Anatoliy Hrytsenko said on Oct. 23 that Kyiv's future integration with NATO should not harm relations with Russia, ITAR-TASS reported the same day.

"Russia and many wise Russians think that Poland and Baltic countries, which are NATO members, do not endanger Russia. Ukraine has normal relations with Russia and does not infringe its interests in any way," Hrytsenko said after meeting with Rumsfeld.

ITAR-TASS quoted a source in the Ukrainian Defense Ministry as saying that Hrytsenko and Rumsfeld discussed bilateral U.S.-Ukrainian relations, a "cooperation plan" for 2006, and the withdrawal of Ukrainian troops from Iraq after the December parliamentary elections there.

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У Каліфорнії вбили дружину адвоката Павла Лазаренка

Мар'яна Драч, *Радіо Свобода*

У Сполучених Штатах вбили дружину адвоката, який захищав колишнього українського прем'єра Павла Лазаренка. Американське видання "Стратфор" припускає, що це вбивство могли організувати для того, щоб не нашкодити подальшій політичній кар'єрі Лазаренка в Україні. Чи є підстави для такого скандального висновку?

Памелу Вітале вбили у будинку-причепі під Сан-Франциско 15-го жовтня, де родина мешкала тимчасово, поки будує нову віллу. Її чоловік Деніел Горовіц відомий тим, що захищає людей із сумнівною репутацією, включно із наркоторговцями та засудженими до смертної кари, а нині є адвокатом Сюзан Полк. Її звинувачують у вбивстві чоловіка-мільйонера в 2002-му році, щоб нібито отримати великий спадок. Це гучна справа в Каліфорнії і деякі американські ЗМІ пов'язують смерть дружини адвоката саме з цією історією. Проте видання "Стратфор" сумнівається у такій версії і наводить наступні аргументи.

Вбивати когось у власному домі – жорстокий і водночас особистий злочин, обидві характерні риси того як діють організовані злочинні угруповання, особливо з колишнього Радянського Союзу. Дружина адвоката Горовіца працювала разом з ним, була його асистентом і займалася базою даних клієнтів. Під час захисту Павла Лазаренка адвокат, чи його жінка могли натрапити на делікатну інформацію про його можливі кримінальні діяння, припускають оглядачі "Стратфор". У такому разі вбивство Памели Вітале - це спроба зупинити витік інформації, або ж попередити Деніела Горовіца.

Нагадаємо, американське журі присяжних влітку минулого року визнало колишнього українського прем'єра винним у відмиванні грошей і здирництві, а суддя збирається оголосити вирок у його справі в грудні цього року. Оскільки Павло Лазаренко відсидів багато років під домашнім арештом не виключено, що скоро його випустять на волю, зауважує "Стратфор." Сам Лазаренко відкидає звинувачення і хоче далі активно займатися українською політикою. Американське видання припускає, що вбивство Памели Вітале могли влаштувати для того, щоб розчистити дорогу перед поверненням Павла Лазаренка в Україну.

Тим часом 20-го жовтня під Сан-Франциско затримали 16-тирічного юнака, якого підозрюють у причетності до вбивства Памели Вітале. Поліція наголосила, цей арешт не означає, що слідство у цій справі припиняється.

Безсмертний і Зварич очолять виборчу кампанію

(Українська правда)—Віце-прем'єр Роман Безсмертний очолить виборчу кампанію "Народного союзу Наша Україна".

Про це повідомив сам Безсмертний на прес-конференції 17–го жовтня.

"Рішенням ради партії доручено мені здійснювати керівництво виборчої кампанії до Верховної ради 2006", - сказав він.

За його словами, рада партії має призначити екс-міністра юстиції Романа Зварича керівником центрального виборчого штабу.

"Партія створює центральний штаб, очолить який Роман Михайлович Зварич", - сказав Безсмертний.

В той же час Безсмертний повідомив, про призначення Миколи Катеринчука головою центрального виконавчого комітету партії.

"У зв'язку з тим, що Єхануров був призначений прем'єром, то він склав повноваження голови виконкому, і головою виконкому партії було обрано Катеринчука".

Безсмертний повідомив, що 12 листопада відбудеться з'їзд партії, де буде прийнято рішення стосовно "конфігурації можливих переговорів щодо складу блоку та створення групи переговорщиків, яка буде займатися переговорами з іншими політичними партіями".

Говорячи про майбутній блок, Безсмертний сказав, що НСНУ прагне відновити "конфігурацію політичних сил 2002 року за деякими винятками." На уточнююче питання, які саме політичні сили він мав на увазі, Безсмертний сказав:

"Я говорив про ці партії, які спочатку роботи парламенту або дистанціювалися від позиції блоку, як то партія "Вперед Україно!", або вийшли з блоку, як Ліберальна партія".

"Повертатися на цей місток мені здається недоречним", - додав Безсмертний.

Щодо питання про те, хто очолить партійний список на виборах і чи можливо, що його очолить президент Ющенко, Безсмертний сказав: "Мені здається, що ніхто з нас не має права заборонити чи дозволити членам партії дискутувати навколо цієї проблеми".

На питання, чи можливий блок з Юлією Тимошенко, Безсмертний сказав, що такі переговори на сьогоднішній день не ведуться, хоча деякі політики запропонували своє посередництво у цьому процесі.

Говорячи про можливу конфігурацію політичних сил в парламенті після парламентських виборів 2006 року, Безсмертний зазначив, що поки рано говорити про те, "як будемо ділити шкуру вбитого ведмедя, тому що почалися тільки переговори, які стосуються формування виборчого блоку".

Водночас Безсмертний повідомив про можливість створення урядової коаліції після парламентських виборів з БЮТ, блоком Литвина та Партією регіонів.

"Я не виключаю урядової коаліції з Тимошенко, Литвином і відповідним блоком… Треба дивитися, як пройде кампанія, з якими лозунгами буде Партія регіонів...", - сказав він.

"Я виходжу з того, що життя навесні завжди народжується, по-новому розвивається. Які воно ще сюрпризи, це життя народить, дуже складно говорити. Тому давайте почекаємо і остаточно скажемо, що буде навесні", - додав Безсмертний.

Тимошенко обрала собі начальника виборчого штабу

(Українська правда)—Керівником виборчого штабу Блоку Юлії Тимошенко призначено колишнього голову СБУ, її давнього соратника Олександра Турчинова.

Таке було рішення ухвалено на засіданні президії блоку 18–го жовтня, повідомив "Українську правду" прес-секретар Тимошенко Віталій Чепінога.

Він також спростував повідомлення агентства "РосБізнесКонсалтінг", що керівником виборчого штабу Тимошенко став російський сенатор Максим Кавджарадзе, який начебто допомагав з поїздкою експрем'єра до Москви.

"Нічого такого не було", - сказав речник Тимошенко.

В Ізраїлі знову дискутують, чи має митрополит Шептицький отримати звання праведника народів світу

Вольф Москович, *Радіо Свобода*

Напередодні Міжнародної наукової конференції, присвяченої Митрополиту Андрею Шептицькому (1904-1944), яка відбудеться у Львові на початку листопада, в Ізраїлі розгортається громадська кампанія, щоб надати Митрополитові почесне звання праведника народів світу.

Широко відомо, що під час голокосту митрополит Андрій Шептицький врятував понад 150 євреїв, давши їм притулок в монастирях. Зробив він це, наражаючи себе на небезпеку фашистської розправи. Існують свідчення врятованих ним людей: колишнього головного рабина Львова Давида Кагане, фармацевта Йосипа Подошина з дружиною Ганною та інших.

Упродовж чверті століття, з 1964 по 1991 рік, справа про надання митрополиту Шептицькому почесного звання праведника народів світу розглядалася 13 разів у меморіальній установі жертв голокосту в Яд Вашем в Єрусалимі. Кожного разу подання євреїв, врятованих митрополитом Шептицьким, відхилялося комісією Яд Вашему під тим приводом, що митрополит Шептицький співпрацював з німцями та був глибоко пов'язаний з українськими колабораціоністами, несучи таким чином відповідальність за тотальне знищення євреїв Галичини.

Марно свідки вказували на те, що Шептицький направив листа на Гімлера, вимагаючи останнього не залучати українську поліцію до операцій зі знищення євреїв. Ні цього листа, ані його копій дотепер так і не знайшли в жодному архіві. При останньому голосуванні в Яд Вашемі подання свідків було відхилене більшістю всього в один голос.

Роками єдиною громадською організацією Ізраїлю, яка послідовно та безкомпромісно вела боротьбу за визнання заслуг митрополита Шептицького Яд Вашемом, було товариство українсько-єврейських зв'язків, очолюване Яковом Сусленським. Як заявив радіо "Свобода" Яків Сусленський, автор книги "Справжні герої" про українських рятівників євреїв, в нього зібрана вже товста папка з сотнями документів, пов'язаних зі справою митрополита Шептицького у Яд Вашемі. Він вважає поведінку цієї установи ганебною.

Тої ж думки дотримується врятована митрополитом Шептицьким Лілі Фогілман, що запитує Яд Вашем, яка різниця існує між Шіндлером та Шептицьким. Шиндлер – німець, був членом нацистської партії і врятовував євреїв. Шептицький, будучи українцем, рятував євреїв, наражаючи громадське становище та своє життя на небезпеку. Так чому ж йому не належить звання праведника?

Її підтримує колишній міністр закордонних справ Польщі Адам Даніель Ротфельд, також врятований Шептицьким. Тепер, напередодні львівської міжнародної конференції, присвяченої митрополиту Шептицькому яка відбудеться на початку листопада, в Яд Вашем направлена петиція євреїв, врятованих митрополитом Шептицький, а також десятків громадських діячів Ізраїлю, яка наполягає на тому, щоб нарешті митрополиту Шептицькому було віддано належне почесне звання праведника народів світу.

Аналізи Ющенка відправили з лікарні, в якій він не лежав

(Українська правда)—Парламентська комісія з отруєння Віктора Ющенка хоче взяти свідчення в екс-генпрокурора Святослава Піскуна та колишнього голови СБУ Олександра Турчинова.

Про це повідомив журналістів 19–го жовтня голова комісії Володимир Сівкович після першого їх засідання від грудня 2004 року.

Також, за словами Сівковича, вони запрошують на комісію керівника слідчої групи Генпрокуратури, представника судово-медичної експертизи та колишнього міністра Давида Жванію.

"Жванія сказав, що Тимошенко організувала отруєння Ющенка. Тому ми хочемо почути його пояснення", - сказав Сівкович.

Сівкович не дав однозначної відповіді, чи був Ющенко отруєний. На питання, чи є таким хоча б проміжний висновок комісії, він відповів: "Проміжного висновку немає ні в Генпрокуратурі, ні в СБУ, ні в МВС. Ні вони, ні ми не знаємо, чи було отруєння. Треба мати докази, а їх немає".

За словами Сівковича, комісія чотири рази зверталася до Генпрокуратури щодо проведення експертизи. "Відповідь нам була одна – ми цим займаємося, скоро вже буде призначена експертиза. Така сама була відповідь в березні, в квітні, в травні і останній раз 9 вересня. Що відбувається – не зрозуміло", - сказав Сівкович.

Втім, за його словами, "комісія напрацювала матеріалів більше, ніж вони є в Генпрокуратурі".

Зокрема, сказав Сівкович, результати експертизи аналізів Ющенка, зроблені за кордоном, не можуть бути доказом його отруєння. "На папері, які супроводжували зразки крові Ющенка, немає його прізвища. Просто стоїть прохання провести експертизу крові та сиворотки "нашого пацієнта".

Також в інтерв'ю "Українській правді" Сівкович звернув увагу на те, що аналізи Ющенка були направлені на експертизу в Амстердам з Центрального австрійського госпіталю. "Ющенко не був клієнтом цієї установи", - нагадав Сівкович. Як відомо, Ющенко перебував у клініці "Рудольфінерґаус".

Крім цього, Сівкович звернув увагу на те, що експертизу проводила Амстердамська лабораторія харчових продуктів, "а вона займається комбікормами, окороками".

За словами Сівковича, у висновку цієї лабораторії та ще двох установ, до яких звернувся експерт з Амстердаму для підтвердження своїх висновків, немає слів, що "Ющенка було отруєно діоксином".

"Там лише сказано, що в крові невстановленої особи виявлений діоксин", - сказав він.

Сівкович розповів, що матеріали на експертизу з Центрального віденського госпіталю були відправлені поштою DHL на адресу Джастіна Мейсона. Це, як сказав Сівкович, представник професора Амстердамської лабораторії харчових продуктів Брауера.

"У нас є повний звіт професора Брауера. Нема лише одного – що зразки крові належать Ющенку", - сказав Сівкович.

Білозір звернулася в СБУ за діагнозом

(ForUm)—Член Президії Ради партії "Народний Союз "Наша Україна", екс-міністр культури і туризму Оксана Білозір звернулася в Службу безпеки України з проханням з'ясувати обставини її гострої і раптової хвороби.

Як передає «УНІАН» з посиланням на прес-службу НСНУ, три місяці тому Білозір потрапила на стаціонарне лікування, зараз вона проходить амбулаторне обстеження і чекає результатів СБУ.

Yushchenko fires Piskun

(Ukrainian Journal)—President Viktor Yushchenko on Oct. 14 sacked Prosecutor General Sviatoslav Piskun amid persistent lapses and failures in the investigation of the murder of journalist Heorhiy Gongadze and other high profile crimes.

Piskun had been vigorously maneuvering the previous week to try to avoid the dismissal by opening several high profile inquiries, including a probe against a figure once close to Yushchenko.

"There are more than enough reasons for the firing," Oleh Rybachuk, Yushchenko's chief of staff, said at a press conference Oct. 14. He added sarcastically: "Perhaps we have saved Piskun from opening an inquiry against himself, investigating it within one day and putting himself in a jail."

Piskun has been criticized repeatedly by Western journalist organizations and political leaders for dragging his feet with the complete investigation into the murder of Gongadze.

Ukraine's law enforcement agencies arrested three police officers early this year that had confessed to murdering Gongadze in September 2000. However, the Prosecutor General Office had failed to identify those who had ordered and organized the murder.

Completing the investigation into the Gongadze murder was one of the key election promises by Yushchenko during the presidential election campaign last year.

Due to the lapses by the prosecutors, one of the key witnesses in the case, former Internal Affairs Minister Yuriy Kravchenko, had apparently killed himself in March, while another senior police officer, Oleksiy Pukach, had escaped to other country and is currently in hiding.

The Gongadze investigation failure comes amid similar setbacks in other high profile cases, including investigations of the fraud during the presidential election last year and cases of corruption. Not a single high-profile case was investigated enough to be submitted for a court hearing over the past 10 months.

Instead, Piskun has been making controversial statements and resorting to political maneuvering since early this year to try to keep his job.

The previous week, Piskun launched a probe that had been opening way for the investigation against former President Leonid Kuchma for allegedly illegally firing Piskun from the post in October 2003. Another probe was launched against Petro Poroshenko, once a close ally of Yushchenko. Analysts said both probes had been merely designed as a safeguard to prevent the dismissal.

Piskun, in his first comment after the sacking, suggested that now he may join a political party for a career as a politician ahead of the general election in March.

"Guys, I'm happy, I swear," Piskun told reporters. "They just added an extra 10 years to my life."

Yushchenko is now supposed to nominate a candidate for the post of the prosecutor general and submit the candidacy to Parliament for approval.

With the lack of loyal majority in the legislature, Yushchenko may have problems in appointing the new top law enforcement official until after the election in March 2006.

President rules out acceptance of SPF chief's resignation

(Ukrainian Journal)—President Viktor Yushchenko said Oct. 25 he will not accept resignation by Valentyna Semeniuk, the head of the State Property Fund, despite mounting pressure from her Socialist Party allies to quit.

Semeniuk was reported to submit the resignation on Oct. 21, but then had withdrawn it hours later, according to people familiar with the situation. She again submitted the resignation on Oct. 24, an hour before the Kryvorizhstal sell-off, due to a mounting pressure from her Socialist Party allies who had opposed the sell-off.

"Professionaly, I appreciate her very much," Yushchenko said responding to a question about Semeniuk's resignation. "I did not accept her resignation."

Yushchenko praised the State Property Fund for preparing the auction to sell 93% stake in Kryvorizhstal, which on Oct. 24 fetched US$4.79 billion in Ukraine's largest privatization deal ever.

The deal was heavily opposed by the Socialist Party, a moderate leftist group, which calls for greater state control over the economy and big businesses, such as Kryvorizhstal.

The Socialist Party was keen on suspending the Kryvorizhstal privatization ahead of the general election in March 2006, a move that it believes would score well among party's voters.

A meeting of top Socialist Party officials Oct. 21 urged Semeniuk, a member of the party, to quit and the pressure has been mounting ever since until Semeniuk had finally submitted the letter.

"The fact that political intrigues from political parties and groups force a person to do this way or another, this is a secondary issue," Yushchenko said. "The SPF's policy was professional and correct."

Azerbaijan reacts angrily to Ukraine's release of opposition leader

(Ukrainian Journal)—Azerbaijan reacted angrily Oct. 21 to a Ukrainian court ruling that had released Azeri opposition leader from custody, suggesting the development may deteriorate bilateral relations between Baku and Kyiv.

Taliat Aliyev, Azeri ambassador to Ukraine, filed a note to the Foreign Ministry, expressing regret over the release of Rasul Guliyev, whose party is to challenge the government at Nov. 6 election.

"This is unacceptable and must be stopped," Aliyev said in an interview with Channel 5 television. "We have always been friends and should stay that way."

The tough comments suggest there may be consequences for bilateral relations between Ukraine and Azerbaijan, an oil-rich country seen as a strategic ally for diversifying the country's oil supplies.

Azerbaijan has promised to supply up to 2 million metric tons of crude oil annually to be pumped from Odesa to Brody and further to the European Union. This is 40% of oil that is required for making operation of Odesa-Brody oil pipeline profitable, analysts said.

Ukraine, which is yet to secure official oil supply contracts, is currently moving Russian crude from Brody to Odesa for exports by oil tankers via the Black Sea.

"Every time the Azeri government says they don't have enough oil to be sent via Odesa-Brody as they move the oil through so many other routes," Elman Salayev, a close ally of Guliyev, said.

Guliyev resigned as speaker of the Azeri parliament in 1996, and fled to the U.S. to escape what he called political persecution under then President Geidar Aliyev. Aliyev's son, Ilham, was elected to the presidency in October 2003 in a disputed vote that had sparked riots.

The Azeri government, which accuses Guliyev of embezzling US$117 million from an oil refinery in the 1990s, wants him to be extradited to Baku for sentencing.

The Azeri government arrested several senior officials in Baku on Oct. 20 saying it had averted a plot that had anticipated ousting Aliyev from the presidency. The authorities in Baku fear to lose power in the same type of uprising that had helped pro-Western Viktor Yushchenko defeat massive fraud during the election in Ukraine a year ago.

Guliyev planned to show up in Baku on Nov. 6, on the day of the vote, which could trigger some clashes between his loyalists and government supporters.

The Azeri president has been meeting top envoys from the U.S. and Russia as he had sought to maintain his grasp on power, underscoring a rivalry between Russia and the U.S. for influence in the region.

Yushchenko extends a friendly hand to oligarchs

(RFE/RL)—President Viktor Yushchenko said at a meeting with some 20 Ukrainian industrial and financial tycoons on Oct. 14 that the government and big business in Ukraine need to "hold out hands to each other and find understanding on key strategic issues," Interfax-Ukraine reported.

Yushchenko called on domestic oligarchs to invest in strategic projects in the country, including in developing transport corridors, aviation, rocket manufacturing, high technologies, and machine building. He also appealed to them to leave the shadow economy sector and pay taxes as expected.

Yushchenko said he has instructed the government to draft within a month a law that would guarantee property rights to facilities privatized before 2005.

Constitutional Court puts political reform in doubt

(RFE/RL)—The Constitutional Court ruled on Oct. 12 that only the people of Ukraine have the right to decide on the Ukrainian constitutional system or make any changes to the constitution directly through a nationwide referendum, Ukrainian media reported.

The ruling quotes Article 5 in Part 3 of the constitution stipulating that the right to decide or change the constitutional system in Ukraine is the exclusive right of the people and may not be usurped by its bodies or officials.

The ruling appears to call into question the political-reform bill adopted by the Verkhovna Rada in December, when deputies redistributed constitutional prerogatives of the top executive and legislative authorities in the country in order to overcome the presidential standoff.

Constitutional Court grinds to a halt

(RFE/RL)—Nine judges of Ukraine's Constitutional Court retired on Oct. 18, bringing the number of vacancies in this body to 13, "The Kyiv Post" reported on Oct. 20.

The Constitutional Court, which is made up of 18 judges appointed to nine-year terms — six chosen by the president, six by parliament, and six by the Congress of Judges — determines whether laws and acts of the president and Cabinet of Ministers and international treaties conform with the constitution.

Parliament now needs to appoint four judges and the president needs to appoint three, with the remainder chosen by the Congress of Judges.

Yushchenko fills final cabinet post

(RFE/RL)—President Viktor Yushchenko has appointed Yuriy Polyachenko as health minister, thus completing the formation of Prime Minister Yuriy Yekhanurov's cabinet, Ukrainian media reported on Oct. 12.

Polyachenko, 42, was deputy health minister in 2002-03 and deputy secretary of the National Security and Defense Council in 2003-05.

Of the 25 cabinet members appointed by Yushchenko 11 are new appointments.

The same day President Yushchenko also signed a decree setting up a Political Council under the head of state for holding "permanent and constructive dialogue between the president and political forces represented in the Verkhovna Rada," Interfax-Ukraine reported, quoting the presidential press service.

The council, an advisory and consultative body chaired by the president, will include the heads of parliamentary caucuses and groups on a voluntary basis.

The Verkhovna Rada currently has 15 deputy factions.

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Canada's support for Ukraine is welcome

Within days of each other two Canadian cabinet ministers visited Ukraine to help fast-track the country into two vitally important international institutions — NATO and the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Defence Minister Bill Graham and International Trade minister Jim Peterson have both pledged to help Ukraine's accession to these bodies in any way they can. This is encouraging both for Ukraine and for our community in Canada.

Ukraine first made its application for membership in the WTO in 1993 — two years before that organization, which replaced the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) — came into being.

The WTO is the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations. At its heart are the WTO agreements, negotiated and signed by the bulk of the world's trading nations and ratified in their parliaments. The goal is to help producers of goods and services, exporters, and importers conduct their business. It currently has 148 member nations including seven former Soviet republics — Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Moldova, Armenia, Georgia and Kygyzstan.

One of the problems for Ukraine in the past has been that the Kuchma administration did not place much priority upon WTO accession, preferring instead to follow Russia's lead. This has all changed and the Yushchenko government has set its sights upon entering the WTO as soon as possible. It is demonstrated its willingness to push ahead with those reforms that are necessary.

Accession for Ukraine means entry into the world market — an opportunity to greatly expand its trade and improve the living conditions of its people. This will also help loosen Ukraine's economic dependence upon Russia. This factor is extremely critical as Moscow has increasingly used its economic hold over Ukraine to further its own political agenda and it in line. It is a heavy cudgel and Vladimir Putin has no qualms about using it with force. This reality had to be grudgingly acknowledged by the Yushchenko government when newly-elected Prime Minister Yuri Yekhanurov made Moscow his first priority visit.

If the new civil society which came about as a result of the Orange Revolution is to be preserved, then Ukraine must be admitted to the WTO as soon as possible. It would be best that a green light be given at the next WTO conference in December.

We also welcome the statements of Minister Peterson regarding Canada's support and urge the government to use its international standing to help ensure Ukraine gets approved.

NATO membership is another priority. It may also be a step towards achieving that more elusive goal — membership in the European Union.

Here again, Russia is greatly opposed to Ukraine's entry into that body. Minister Graham put it well when he explained to the Russian defense minister that NATO expansion in Ukraine and other countries in Eastern Europe is all about creating stability, civilian control over the military and the establishment of democratic values. It is not a threat to Russia.

Nevertheless, Russia, or, more accurately the Putin administration, finds this a threat precisely because it finds the establishment of democratic values as a threat. The Putin administration's goals are to revive the Russian Empire in a new form and maintain the traditional Russian authoritarianism. For that reason Putin is paranoid of any democratic virus that could contaminate to his complacent subjects.

If Russia wants to resist joining the democratic family of nations and creating a civil society, that is its problem.

Ukraine, however, has made a clear choice towards that path and Canada and the rest of the Western world must do all in their power to ensure that Ukraine is allowed to follow upon its chosen path. Membership in the WTO and NATO will go along way in ensuring that choice.

Ukraine, Russia and the WTO

By Walter Prochorenko, PhD.
The Action Ukraine Report, Oct. 21, 2005

If anyone ever dreamed that Yanukovych or Russian supporters in Ukraine (of which there are many more than one would ever imagine), would ever encourage Ukraine's accession to the WTO, then they are as gullible as those who believe that bilateral treaties between Russia and Ukraine will ever benefit Ukraine.

There is no doubt in my mind that Russia will continue to pressure Ukraine to return to its sphere of influence and will use any and all means to ensure that this happens.

As much as we in the Diaspora would like to think otherwise, recent mistakes by President Yushchenko, and the political mess created by the internal infighting within Ukraine's government, have provided the necessary impetus for Russia to achieve this goal. Forgive the pessimism, but this feeling is tempered by experience and historical precedents.

Unfortunately the West is both unable and unwilling to provide Ukraine the necessary energy independence, the reciprocal trade, and the investments that Ukraine needs to break the bonds that tie it to Russia.

This is evidenced in the US by the pettiness of the attempts in Congress to repeal the Jackson-Vanick amendment, as well as the recent EU statement by European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso, that Ukraine needs to do less talking and show more concrete steps to achieve a market economy.

This is the classic case of putting the cart before the horse. Without "concrete" support from the West, Ukraine has no alternative but to be re-engulfed by Russia's dominance. What has the EU done to assist Ukraine in increasing its trade with Europe or to take those concrete steps of which Barroso speaks? What can the US do to ensure that Ukraine becomes energy independent when the US itself cannot achieve this goal?

I have to respectfully disagree with at least one of Dr. Taras Kuzio's assessments in his article "Russia still gets it wrong on Ukraine" published by the Jamestown Foundation (and reprinted inUkrainian News, Oct. 12-25, 2005) concerning Ukraine's reorientation toward Russia rather than Europe.

As much as we would like to believe otherwise, this is already happening and no amount of wishful thinking will change these facts. Europe, the US, and much of the industrialized world continue to give Ukraine the proper amount of "lip service" (the very same thing they accuse Ukraine of doing), and then they turn their backs on Ukraine's efforts to become a part of their economic order.

In the meanwhile, Russia sits patiently and watches Ukraine making mistake after mistake and then continues to strengthen its grip on Ukraine's dependence on it for energy, trade and investments.

Whether Yekhanurov, Kinach or even Yushchenko make their courtships toward Russia out of desire or necessity, the sad truth is that they have no other alternatives at this point. As long as the West continues to admire Ukraine's democratic aspirations but fails to provide concrete assistance, then Ukraine's hopes to become a true European nation will continue to be only a dream.

As for Ukraine's WTO aspirations, they now seem further away from reality than ever before. It's quite obvious that Russia does not want Ukraine to become a WTO member before it does. Thus Ukraine's only hope for the nominal image face-lift that a WTO membership can provide seems to be further away from achievement than ever before.

Yushchenko's new political partner, Yanukovych, and his Russian- influenced power peddlers will not allow this to happen. The other sad truth is that Ukraine is now paralyzed before the Parliamentary elections and nothing much will happen before April or May 2006.

This period of uncertainty will continue to strengthen Russia's hand and it may even preclude the democratic elements of Ukraine's political machine to ensure a gainful pro-West win in these elections.

True, Ukraine, has made its share of mistakes and serious political errors in recent months. These have certainly not endeared them to the West and some were even seen as rashly executed and poorly analyzed.

But Ukraine is still young and the new government is still younger. They are entitled to make such mistakes. The one thing that they should learn to do, however, is to cooperate and work together if they are to achieve their goals. But this is the horse of another color and probably would require volumes just to analyze.

So what can the West do other than wring its hands or sigh with exasperation at the current situation in Ukraine? First, and despite all the previously cited problems, it "must" ensure that Ukraine gains WTO accession at any cost. Leaving "influence peddling" to Russia alone will not enable this to happen. The West must take a pro-active role in this process. Europe must also practice and participate in economic assistance to Ukraine.

Their efforts so far have been laughable and completely inadequate. The EU probably invests more in office supplies than it does in a country that can eventually be a meaningful economic partner. The EU should not fear that Ukraine can become a burden on its economy. Ukraine, like Turkey, can be economically self sufficient if they are property assisted and funded.

The EU and especially the US should seek to strengthen Ukraine's alliances with Poland, the Baltic States, the Balkans, but especially the energy rich countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia.

Meanwhile the US should realize that Ukraine can be a great partner and a tremendous asset in that part of the world. Let this be at least one bright star on the clouded sky of US's foreign policy.

Walter Prochorenko is a businessman who spent several years working in Ukraine. He lives in New Jersey and he has recently been working on an advanced educational degree which he has just finished.

Poroshenko cleared of criminal charge — a trap for Yushchenko?

By Oleg Varfolomeyev

(Jamestown Foundation)—The Ukrainian Prosecutor-General's Office closed a criminal case against former National Security and Defense Council (NRBO) secretary Petro Poroshenko on Oct. 20. This was the only case launched against a member of President Viktor Yushchenko's inner circle following the accusations of corruption against his team in early September and the subsequent dismissal of Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, whose allies had leveled the accusations.

Caretaker chief prosecutor Serhy Vynokurov closed the case against Poroshenko, officially, due to the absence of *corpus delicti*, less than a week after Yushchenko dismissed Sviatoslav Piskun from the post of prosecutor-general. This move was obviously ill timed, as accusations are now mounting against Yushchenko of covering up for his crony (Poroshenko is the godfather of one of Yushchenko's children). Yushchenko's rivals from Tymoshenko's camp also claim that he fired Piskun for opening the case against Poroshenko.

Ironically, Yushchenko had to task a Tymoshenko ally, Piskun, with investigating the corruption accusations leveled against his team. Thus on Sept. 20, Piskun reported that five criminal cases had been opened against NRBO officials, but not against Poroshenko personally, he stressed. Then Piskun attended the debates on Ukraine at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, where he was harshly criticized for mishandling the investigation into the September 2000 murder of journalist Heorhiy Gongadze. After that, Piskun's dismissal was only a matter of time, as the Gongadze case is a very sensitive issue for Yushchenko, who last spring promised that it would be solved within a few months.

But on Oct. 10, Piskun sensationally charged Poroshenko with "hampering a legitimate business activity of two companies constructing a building," a crime carrying a 5-10 year prison sentence. The case centered on a scandal-ridden construction project in Kyiv. A high-rise residential building, whose construction was launched under former president Leonid Kuchma, dominates the right bank of the River Dnipro in Kyiv, dwarfing the nearby historic landmark, the Monastery of the Caves, an imbalance that apparently violates building codes. Shortly after coming to power, Yushchenko promised to check the site and reportedly pledged to demolish it if courts ruled that the building was unlawful. Poroshenko claimed that in March the construction companies offered him a bribe in order to save the skyscraper, which, he said, he indignantly refused and "sent them packing." But the companies offer a different story, claiming that Poroshenko demanded a share in the project in return for allowing the construction to continue — a charge that Poroshenko repeatedly denied. But this charge served as the basis for the criminal case against him.

Yushchenko sacked Piskun on Oct. 14 without explanation, which was probably a mistake. Yushchenko's foes and their media might have interpreted subsequent developments differently, had he openly blamed Piskun for mishandling the Gongadze case or for failing to

Will U.S. deport Shcherban to Ukraine?

By Oleg Varfolomeyev

(Jamestown Foundation)—U.S. authorities have detained a prominent representative of Ukraine's old regime, former Sumy Region governor Volodymyr Shcherban, in Florida. Like disgraced former prime minister Pavlo Lazarenko in New York six years ago, Shcherban was detained on an immigration violation. Lazarenko had applied for political asylum. His request was denied, but he was not deported to Ukraine, as he faced fraud charges in the United States. The Ukrainian authorities hope that the U.S. decision will be different with Shcherban, whose deportation Kyiv requested several months ago, according to Interior Minister Yuriy Lutsenko.

The United States has no extradition treaty with Ukraine, so Kyiv can expect Shcherban's deportation to Ukraine only if he committed no crime in the United States, is not granted asylum, and is not deported to a different country. If he is sent back home, Shcherban will face charges on at least four counts, one of which can be qualified as political — Shcherban is believed to have ordered Sumy officials to vote for Viktor Yanukovych in last year's presidential election. Another three criminal cases opened against Shcherban feature the extortion of shares in several Sumy companies from their legal holders, tax evasion (Shcherban failed to pay some US$130,000 in taxes in 2003, according to tax police), and illegal possession of firearms (searching his mansion in April, police found an arsenal of some 50 guns).

Shcherban may also be held responsible for ordering police last year to attack Sumy students who staged a peaceful protest against plans to merge several local colleges into one university. The protest was backed by the opposition, which was then headed by Sumy Region native Viktor Yushchenko, and police reportedly applied excessive force, beating and dragging students to the ground.

Shcherban figures in the notorious tape recordings implicating several former Ukrainian officials in crimes, which ex-president Leonid Kuchma's former bodyguard Mykola Melnychenko claims to have made in Kuchma's office. When the transcript of a conversation between Kuchma and Shcherban was released on the Internet during the anti-Kuchma protests in 2000-2001, the opposition accused Shcherban of illegal privatization of Sumykhimprom, a chemical producer. Shcherban denied any wrongdoing. Yushchenko trusted Shcherban, and included him in Our Ukraine's list for the 2002 parliamentary election, despite protests from many of Yushchenko's allies. Shcherban defected from Yushchenko's camp the same year, and he actively backed his rival Yanukovych in the 2004 presidential election campaign. He was stripped of his parliamentary seat in 2003, as he could not legally combine it with the gubernatorial post.

Shcherban disappeared soon after Yushchenko fired him from the governor's post in February. It was widely believed that he was hiding in Russia, along with several other former top officials who fled Ukraine after Yushchenko's victory, and who Russia did not want to extradite — Kuchma's office manager Ihor Bakay, former Interior Minister Mykola Bilokon, and Odesa's former mayor Ruslan Bodelan. In May, Ukraine's Interior Ministry put Shcherban on an international wanted list and asked Russia for assistance in locating him. But it turned out that Shcherban had left for the United States in April. His business visa expired on Oct. 8, and on Oct. 12 Immigration and Customs Enforcement detained him in Tampa. On learning the news of Shcherban's detention, Lutsenko expressed hope that the U.S. courts would soon rule to send him home, and pledged that he would personally meet Shcherban at the airport. Getting hold of Shcherban is very important for the Yushchenko government, as "Prisons for bandits" was one of the main slogans of the Orange Revolution, but no single top official of the corrupt former regime has so far received prison sentences. Many of them have fled Ukraine, and it has turned out to be far from easy to prove the guilt of others in courts. Shcherban should not be a hard nut to crack for prosecutors technically, as he faces numerous charges. But they may be impeded by one problem — as a deputy of the Sumy regional council Shcherban enjoys immunity from prosecution, according to a law that parliament passed recently.

Lutsenko said that he, according to the law, may detain Shcherban for three days only, if the regional council fails to give its consent to a longer arrest. This consent may be hard to get, as the council is reportedly full of people handpicked by Shcherban. Yushchenko has appealed to the Constitutional Court against the law granting immunity from prosecution to local deputies. But if Washington sends Shcherban home and his immunity is still valid, Shcherban will be effectively at large, free to either try and flee again, or to run in next year's parliamentary polls on the list of one of the opposition parties. Once in parliament, Shcherban will be granted immunity from prosecution again, as a national deputy.

It should be noted, however, that parliamentary immunity from prosecution did not save Lazarenko in 1999. He fled to the United States after parliament voted to lift his immunity.

Yushchenko reaffirms Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic goals

By Taras Kuzio

(Jamestown Foundation)—President Viktor Yushchenko has taken steps to re-affirm Ukraine's desire for Euro-Atlantic integration. "Ukraine is a European country. I will never accept the idea that it is not," he told London's Royal Institute for International Affairs on Oct. 17.

Western governments and international organizations heard these claims many times under former president Leonid Kuchma. But by his second term, they were seen as little more than empty rhetoric.

Ironically, some West European governments now fear that Yushchenko is actually serious in his endeavor to bring Ukraine into Euro-Atlantic structures. This fear is especially acute within "old Europe," where EU enlargement fatigue set in after last year's expansion. The failure of referenda on a new EU constitution in France and the Netherlands, coupled with stalling over accession talks with Turkey, are products of this fatigue, and Ukraine's Orange Revolution did not ease this pre-existing condition.

The United States and Poland continue to be Ukraine's strongest supporters. The recent rightward shift in Poland's elections will only increase Warsaw's support for Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic integration. Ukraine is set to create a joint battalion with Poland and Lithuania (UkrPolLitBat) based on the Ukrainian-Polish battalion□ (UkrPolBat) performing peacekeeping operations in Kosovo.

In London at the Royal Institute and in Kyiv at a joint Ukraine-NATO commission, Yushchenko outlined three phases for Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic program.

First, Yushchenko hopes that the EU would grant Ukraine market economic status while Britain holds the rotating presidency. According to British Ambassador to Ukraine Robert Brinkley, London hopes that the EU will grant this status before the December EU-Ukraine summit in Kyiv.

Securing WTO membership should facilitate relations with the EU. Yushchenko predicted that market-economy status and WTO membership would lead to the signing of a Ukraine-EU free-trade agreement in 2006. Such a free-trade agreement would reinforce the limited nature of Ukraine's involvement in the CIS Single Economic Space.

Nevertheless, WTO Director-General Pascual Lami is pessimistic about Ukraine achieving WTO membership in December. If Ukraine fails in its WTO drive this year, it will be because Yushchenko and his government did not sufficiently ensure that parliament adopted all WTO-required legislation before the summer recess on July 8.

Clouding the issue further is National Security and Defense Council Secretary Anatoly Kinakh's statement supporting a synchronized Russian-Ukrainian WTO membership drive.

Second, Yushchenko plans to move from a NATO Intensified Dialogue on Membership Issues to a Membership Action Plan (MAP) in May 2006. Speaking at the Ukraine-NATO commission, Yushchenko was equivocal, "Arising from the fact that NATO is an active guarantor of stability in Europe, Ukraine is preparing for full membership in this organization".

NATO has reiterated its open door policy, which has always distinguished that institution from the EU. NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer outlined Ukraine's membership in NATO as a stepping-stone to EU membership, as it traditionally has been for past aspirants. "NATO is ready to assist in providing all manner of assistance and support to this state [Ukraine] in this area," de Hoop Scheffer declared.

Scheffer and the chairman of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, Pierre Lellouche, both said that Ukraine had every chance of joining NATO in the future. But receiving a MAP in 2006 does not provide a membership date. Such a date is more realistically situated in Yushchenko's second term (2009-14), rather than the over-optimistic 2008 or 2009 put forward by Foreign Minister Borys Tarasyuk and the Ukrainian media.

NATO has emphasized that it wants concrete action, not empty rhetoric. NATO specified three areas for Kyiv to target in addition to holding free and fair elections in 2006. Ukraine should also take more resolute action against corruption, improve the rule of law, and raise public support for NATO membership. According to surveys by the Democratic Initiatives foundation, only one in ten Ukrainians know what NATO is and why Ukraine should join it. One-third of Ukrainians support membership, one-third are opposed, while and the final third are unsure.

Third, EU membership remains the most difficult component of Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic integration process. After a firm closed-door policy under Kuchma, the EU has slightly warmed toward Kyiv. EU Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso told visiting Prime Minister Yuriy Yekhanurov, "Our door remains open".

In the same manner as NATO, Barroso reiterated the importance of "action" to back up membership goals. Specifically, Ukraine should "show its commitments to European values and standards," Barroso advised.

Yushchenko is also hoping that the EU takes three steps: market economic status in 2005, a free trade regime in 2006, and an association agreement in 2008.

The September cabinet crisis has not altered Yushchenko's support for closing the gap between Ukraine's domestic policies and its foreign policy goals. This determination makes Yushchenko different from Kuchma, who allowed a gulf to form between his pro-Eurasian domestic policies and his rhetoric in support of Euro-Atlantic integration.

Three concrete steps that might satisfy both the EU Commission President and the NATO Secretary-General would be for Kyiv to move urgently to appoint Ambassadors to the United States, Britain, and France, three key Euro-Atlantic countries.

Poroshenko cleared of criminal charge — a trap for Yushchenko?

punish the officials who were involved in election rigging last year. On Oct. 19, Tymoshenko's right-hand man, former Security Service (SBU) chief Oleksandr Turchynov, released a statement for the media, saying that Yushchenko had urgently ordered Vynokurov to close the case against Poroshenko. Turchynov forecast that the criminal case would be "closed quietly today or tomorrow."

The case was closed the following day, just as he predicted. Speaking in an interview with *Segodnya*, Vynokurov denied that he was ordered to do so by Yushchenko. And Poroshenko told a news conference on Oct. 22 that a court had cleared him of the charge on Oct. 21. But this will not prevent rumors and new allegations about Poroshenko's influence on Yushchenko from spreading. Piskun told Inter channel that he would sue Yushchenko for firing him, which, he claimed, was illegal. But Piskun made a point of not directly accusing Yushchenko, suggesting that Yushchenko was prompted to fire him by people from his entourage "who are dishonest and indecent." He also insisted that there was no reason to close the case against Poroshenko.

Piskun's story was fully in line with the myth portraying Yushchenko as a weak, indecisive, and easily manipulated character, which media outlets linked to Tymoshenko have contributed to spreading since long before the Orange Revolution. And Poroshenko, who was Tymoshenko's main rival in the under-the-carpet struggle for the post of prime minister after the revolution, has been demonized as the *eminence grise* manipulating Yushchenko behind the scenes. These myths have only been fuelled by the speed of the recent developments involving Poroshenko: Oct. 10 — the prosecutor-general charges Poroshenko with corruption; Oct. 14 — Yushchenko fires prosecutor-general without explanation; Oct. 20 — the caretaker chief prosecutor closes the case against Poroshenko; Oct. 21 — a court clears Poroshenko.

Parliament defeats 2006 budget proposals

(Ukrainian Journal)—Parliament defeated the government's 2006 budget draft by a significant margin on Oct. 20 in the latest indication that President Viktor Yushchenko faces challenges in the legislature while pushing through reforms.

The draft anticipated a state budget revenue at 118.7 billion hryvnias, or $23.5 billion, while spending at 127.4 billion hryvnias, or $25.2 billion, according to the Finance Ministry.

The draft mustered support from only 179 lawmakers in 450-seat Parliament, which shows the government clearly lacks votes to muster a simple majority of 226 votes.

The defeat come as most of political groups have urged for greater spending on different sectors, such as the agriculture or coal, a sign the groups have been using populist campaigning ahead of general election.

"Unfortunately, we have a calamity – [the upcoming] election," Finance Minister Viktor Pynzenyk said after the vote.

The groups have been starting election campaigns ahead of general election due in March 2006 and apparently have been fighting for voters while pushing to greater spending.

Oleksandr Moroz, the leader of the Socialist Party, a minor government coalition partner, refused to back the draft suggesting increasing the spending on the agriculture sector.

Parliament has to approve the 2006 budget before Dec. 1 to avoid any delays in the government's spending next year.

Vinok's Mexican Dance.

Celebrate "Christmas Around the World"

(Vinok Worldance)—Vinok Worldance invites you on a first class trip around the world this holiday season. Timothy J. Anderson, local singer/actor, hosts the evening as Vinok performers dance through centuries of folk culture with live music, stunning choreography and handcrafted costumes.

Don't think "airplane food" on this trip! Think of the succulent feast and scrumptious desserts the chefs from the Chateau Louis Hotel & Conference Centre are planning for you. A trip around the globe with fine dining and first-class entertainment – what a wonderful way to start the holiday season! Last year's matinee sold out quickly. Tickets are already going fast, so book early to avoid disappointment.

Christmas Around the World 2004 dinner theatre runs from November 17 – 21 in the Chateau Louis Hotel and Conference Centre Grand Ballroom, located at 11727 Kingsway in Edmonton. Call Vinok at (780) 454-3739 for tickets and reservations. Times and prices are as follows.

• Wednesday, November 17, Thursday, November 18, Dinner 5:30 pm, Performance 7:00 pm ($40.00);

• Friday, November 19, Saturday, November 20, Dinner 6:30, Performance 8:00pm ($45.00);

• Sunday, November 21, Brunch 11:30 am, Performance 1:00pm ($40.00)

Children (all performances except Saturday) $30.00.

(Prices include gratuity, GST will be added.)

This event is supported by Chateau Louis Hotel & Conference Centre, The Canada Council for the Arts, The Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Edmonton Arts Council, and the Edmonton Journal.

The cast of Home and Native Land.

Internment play reveals the truth of injustice

By Nadia Lyzaniwski and Natalia Wilson

Home and Native Land, written by Dan Ebbs, tells the story of one young Ukrainian couple who flee to Canada inspired by promises of freedom and prosperity only to fall victim to a persecution worse than that they left behind.

The play had its premiere Oct. 12-15, at the McManus Studio Theatre in London, Ont. Set in the period 1914-1920, *Home and Native Land* took us back to an often overlooked dark period in Canadian history when thousands of innocent Canadians of Eastern European descent were interned in 24 camps across Canada, forced into slave labour for slave wages.

After their arrival in Canada, the young Ukrainian couple journey to Calgary where Nadia, played by Anne-Marie Caicco, has family. The couple is separated when Petro, played by Shawn Franklin, is imprisoned in the Castle Mountain Internment Camp in Banff National Park where he eventually befriends three internees who suffer with him through the forced labour for twenty-five cents a day and meals of bread and water.

Eventually, Nadia is not able to withstand being apart from her husband and embarks on a hike into the mountains to find her beloved that leaves her practically frozen and unable to walk. A kind park ranger finds her and convinces the stern Dr. Stiles, played by Johnny Bobesich, to care for the enemy alien. Meanwhile, the internees have been moved from Castle Mountain into the town of Banff where their forced labour includes building the doomed Spray River Bridge creatively built on stage with chairs 'forced' away from audience members.

In the meantime, Nadia's cousin in Calgary experiences her own isolation as an 'enemy alien' when her friend can no longer secretly bring her library books as her husband forbids her from consorting with the enemy and her son is shipped off to war with tragic consequences.

Nadia and Petro are eventually reunited after he is released from his internment and they flee the country rejecting the contradiction that is Canada in 1917. Sir Wilfred Laurier, whose protests against conscription and internment operations has fallen on the deaf ears of heartless Justice Minister Doherty, portrayed convincingly by John Hancock, finds his position increasingly solitary as he pleads with the House of Commons against the passage of yet another xenophobic bill.

The production was cast with a small group of talented local actors, many playing numerous roles. Ebbs successfully punctuated the tragic tale with some dry humour as the internees sought solace from one another in their unjustified circumstances. Andrew Johnson was particularly adept at playing both a tragically witty internee as well as playing Sir Wilfred Laurier.

The barbed wire remained on stage throughout the entire production, a clear reminder to the audience of the extremity and harshness of the camps. The austere set design, plaintive music, and convincing howling wind at the beginning of the second act sent shivers through the audience.

Playwright Dan Ebbs was inspired to create this play after visiting Banff National Park in 1999 where he came across the plaque commemorating the Ukrainians confined to the interment camp at Castle Mountain, Alberta. Outraged by this nearly forgotten chapter in Canadian history, Dan wrote Home and Native Land. We take this opportunity to applaud Ebbs in his endeavour to capture and share this tragic page from Ukrainian Canadian history.

Most Canadians and many Ukrainian Canadians were not told of a dark period in Canadian history between 1914 and 1920. In a growing atmosphere of fear, the government passed the War Measures Act and designated 88,000 naturalized and non-naturalized immigrants from the Austro-Hungarian Empire as enemy aliens. Over 8,000 men, women and children of Eastern European heritage were interned in 24 work camps across the country.

They were deemed "unsuitable" to carry on their daily lives and were separated from their families, friends, and their communities and had their possessions and property confiscated and never returned. They were confined to unbearable living quarters secured by barbed wire and guards because the government perceived they were a security risk to Canada because they came from a particular part of Europe with which Canada was at war.

Ebbs' future plans for the play include adapting it into a radio drama and to tour the production across Canada near the 24 former internment camp sites. The most ambitious phase of the project is the all-Canadian□movie production! Good luck Dan!

The production was made possible with the generosity of the London Arts Council, the Canada Council for the Arts, and the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association, as well as the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko. Scripts and study guides were published by Linda Lucas of Cardinal House of Publishing.

For further information or to make a financial contribution, please contact Dan Ebbs, Artistic Director, behindthewire productions, 1874 Park Avenue, London, ON N5W 2J8, (519) 777-2694 or behindthewire04@yahoo.ca.

Help support Bill C-331! Encourage your Member of Parliament to support the passage of this Bill, the Ukrainian Canadian Restitution Act, to recognize the injustice that was done to persons of Ukrainian descent and other Europeans who were interned at the time of the First World War.

Bus catches fire killing five passengers

A passenger bus caught fire in eastern Ukraine early Oct. 14, killing five people, reported The Associated Press citing emergency officials.

One person was hospitalized with serious injuries.

The fire appeared to have been caused by an electrical short-circuit on the bus, which had been carrying 42 passengers, said Valentyna Pedos of Ukraine's Emergency Situations Ministry.

The vehicle caught fire near the village of Dolyna in the Donetsk region as it was traveling between two eastern Ukrainian cities. Firefighters extinguished the flames after about 20 minutes.

Emergency officials set up a special commission to investigate the accident. No further details were available. Ukraine's passenger bus fleet still consists of many aging, Soviet-era vehicles.

L to R: Helen Lynn (model pioneer woman), Ellen Ryski, Evelyn Chwok, Luba Kowalchyk, Natalka Yanitski, Rosemarie Nahnybida. St. Vladimir's UCWLC Ladies in front of old trunk of treasures.

St. Vladimir's UCWLC pays tribute to the Ukrainian Pioneer Woman

Rosemarie Nahnybida

Sept. 11, the UCWLC of St. Vladimir's Parish in Edmonton hosted their annual fall tea. In conjunction with Alberta's centennial celebrations and the parish's 55th anniversary. The theme for the tea was: "Our Treasures: A Tribute to the Ukrainian Pioneer Woman."

Despite the difficult conditions, the isolation, the unbelievable hardships, loneliness, and alienation that the immigrant Ukrainian pioneer women faced, they endured and with their incredible resourcefulness were able to supply incredible "treasures" — both tangible and intangible — for the new generations of Ukrainian women in Canada. The setting was "golden" with the main decorative elements being the trunk, the treasure box, the key, and the khustka. Tea conveners, tea servers, and other helpers were dressed in Ukrainian attire with khustky draped around their waists, on their shoulders, or on their heads.

Very Rev. Fr. Michael Kowalchyk gave brief opening remarks, blessed the food, and led in the singing of Otche Nash. UCWLC Branch President, Luba Kowalchyk, welcomed all guests, outlined the tea's theme, and thanked all those involved in preparing for this special occasion.

Natalka Yanitski, UCWLC Honorary Life Member and tea convener, welcomed the tea pourers: (ladies from neighboring parishes who were in some way connected to early Ukrainian pioneer families in Canada) — Barbara Olynyk, Susan Zeleny, Evelyn Eveneshen, Elizabeth Ozga, Irene Loszuk, Cassie Gretzan, Katherine Sirman, and special guest — Molly Anne Warring — author of "Paradise Acres: the Stry-Ker Family Saga" (a fictional novel based on early Ukrainian pioneers in Alberta).

Dr. Andrij Nahachewsky, Professor, Huculak Chair of Ukrainian Culture and Ethnography, Dept. of Modern Languages and Comparative Studies and director of the Ukrainian Folklore Centre at the University of Alberta was the guest speaker. Dr. Nahachewsky, particularly notable for his having done one and an a half year full time research into the early life of Ukrainian Canadian pioneers in east central Alberta and for recording some 1000 interviews dealing with immigration history, and material culture, gave a touching presentation — with the aid of some film clips — about the life of early Ukrainian pioneers — and in particular about the contributions of the early Ukrainian pioneer women.

Tea conveners, Natalka Yanitski and Rosemarie Nahnybida, spoke on the symbolism used to depict the Ukrainian pioneer woman. A picture collage showing various pioneer women, connected in some way to St. Vladimir's Parish and all wearing hustky, was on display. An acrostic poem "They Wore Khustky" written specially for this occasion was read. Also another poem "The Treasure Box" — a touching poem about a daughter's reminiscing about her mother's hard life — was shared with those present.

A highlight of the afternoon's program was the performance of St. Vladimir's Children's Choir, under the direction of Julian Nahnybida. The children, the parish's little treasures — sang four songs — suitable for the occasion — in Ukrainian. Other highlights of this special occasion was the old wooden trunk filled with various Ukrainian pioneer women's treasures, the collection of some thirty wooden Ukrainian treasure boxes that were on display, and the announcement that a cookbook "St. Vladimir's Treasured Recipes" (compiled by St. Vladimir's Youth) would be available for purchase in the near future.

The evening concluded with he singing of "O Spomahay Nas" — the official UCWLC hymn.

St. Vladimir's Children's Choir under direction of Julian Nahnybida entertain at the celebration.

Ukrainian Shumka Dancers.

Shumka to toast Alberta's Centennial

(Bottomline productions)—On Nov. 5, Shumka's Red Boots, Ballet & Bubbly fundraising gala returns to the newly renovated Jubilee Auditorium to toast the centennial of the Wild Rose.

Celebrity hosts Lorraine Mansbridge and Colin MacLean will welcome a crowd of 700+ to a magnificent, black-tie evening of taste, style, music and dance. Cocktails and a stunning silent auction begin at 6:30 pm; the show begins at 8:00 pm. Hors d'oeuvres, a champagne raffle for a spectacular prize, and a dance to the music of jazz singer Rhonda Withnell and Blackboard Jungle round out the evening.

Featured performances include:

• The never-before-seen, 70-performer, Alberta Echoes: A Fusion of World Dance and Music specially created by Shumka's Resident Choreographer, Dave Ganert, for the Commonwealth Program honouring the 2005 Royal Visit to Alberta by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II;

• Pathways to Hopak, Shumka's new contemporary dancework, commissioned by the Canada Dance Festival and premiered at Ottawa's National Arts Centre.

Special features of this year's event include:

• Honourary Gala Patrons, His Worship Mayor Stephen Mandel and Lynn Mandel;

• Highlights of Shumka's relationship with MS Society of Canada (portion of proceeds will be donated to the MS Society);

• A new work of poetry by Edmonton's Poet Laureate, Alice Major, to mark the occasion of Shumka's contribution to Alberta's Centennial celebrations;

• Introduction of new Ukrainian beer, Lvivske Pyvo, and vodka, Slava Ultra Premium;

Special announcements including Shumka's upcoming involvement in touring productions.

•Tickets are $100 and are available at Shumka Studios (455-9559) and at Ticketmaster (451-8000).

TOURING WESTERN CANADA NOVEMBER 2005

Vancouver - Saturday, November 5th at 8pm • Kay Meek Centre
1700 Mathers Avenue, West Vancouver • Tickets at Festival Box Office
Phone: (604) 257-0366 or Toll Free 1-888-777-0366 • www.festivalboxoffice.com

Vernon - Sunday, November 6th at 2pm • Vernon & District Performing Arts Centre
3800-33rd Street • Tickets at Ticket Seller
Phone: (250) 549-SHOW(7469) • www.ticketseller.ca

Edmonton - Monday, November 7th at 8pm • Winspear Centre • #4 Sir Winston Churchill Square • Tickets at Winspear Centre Box Office
Phone: (780) 428-1414 or Toll Free 1-800-563-5081 • www.winspearcentre.com

Calgary - Wednesday, November 9th at 8pm • Knox United Church
506 - 4th Street S.W. • Tickets at all Ticketmaster outlets
Phone: (403) 777-0000 • www.ticketmaster.ca

Saskatoon - Thursday, November 10th at 8pm • Third Avenue United Church
304 - 3rd Avenue North • Tickets at all Ticketmaster outlets
Phone: (306) 938-7800 or Toll Free 1-800-970-7328 • www.ticketmaster.ca

Regina - Friday, November 11th at 8pm • Regina Performing Arts Centre
1077 Angus Street • Tickets at Regina Performing Arts Centre
Phone: (306) 779-2277 • www.reginaperformingartscentre.com

Winnipeg - Saturday, November 12 at 8pm • Burton Cummings Theatre
364 Smith Street • Tickets at all Ticketmaster outlets
Phone: (204) 780-3333 • www.ticketmaster.ca

The Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus - www.bandura.org

У США почалася кампанія зняти з України поправку Джексона-Веніка

Михайло Мигалисько, *Радіо Свобода*

Два колишні американські посли у Києві - Стівен Пайфер і Вільям Міллер - домагаються, щоб Конгрес Сполучених Штатів Америки до кінця року скасував поправку Джексона-Веніка. 13-го жовтня почалася громадська кампанія, яка ставить перед собою таку мету. А колишні посли її очолили. Ще у квітні президент США Джордж Буш під час зустрічі у Вашинґтоні з президентом України Віктором Ющенком закликав скасувати цю законодавчу поправку часів холодної війни, яка обмежує українську торгівлю і негативно впливає на політичний та інвестиційний імідж України. Однак американські законодавці досі цього не зробили.

Надія Мекконел, президент американської неурядової Фундації "US-Ukraine", сказала радіо "Свобода", що нова ініціатива має на меті привернути увагу американських законодавців не відкладати на другий план це важливе для українсько-американських відносин питання:

"Як відомо, в політичному процесі є ціла низка справ, які привертають увагу усіх. Ми сподіваємося, що наше зусилля посприяє тому, щоб це питання внести до пріоритетів тих сторін, котрі їх вирішують. Ми також дуже задоволені тим, що два колишні американські посли в Україні, Біл Міллер та Стів Пайфер, погодилися бути співголовами коаліції організацій, які зацікавлені цією справою".

Коли ж поправку Джексона-Венніка можуть зняти? Надія Макконел робить такий прогноз:

"Українська влада зажадала цього, а уряд США зобов'язався і висловився за скасування цієї поправки. Це зробили представники Адміністрації президента США та Конгресу. Завданням нашої коаліції є нагадати зацікавленим сторонам, щоб довели цю справу до завершення. Сподіваємося, до кінця цього року".

Поправка Джексона-Веніка була запроваджена 1974 і накладає обмеження на торговельні відносини США з державами, які обмежують права своїх громадян на еміграцію. Після розвалу Радянського Союзу, президенти Сполучених Штатів щорічно скасовували дію поправки стосовно України. Для її остаточного скасування необхідне рішення Конгресу. У Палаті представників та Сенаті вже внесені відповідні законодавчі проекти. А тепер створена у Вашингтоні коаліція, яку очолили два американські колишні посли, домагається того, щоб Конгрес скасував поправку Джексона-Веніка стосовно України ще на теперішній законодавчій сесії.

Син Ющенка не буде зносити будинок на прикарпаті

(Українська правда)—Голова секретаріату президента Олег Рибачук заявляє, що Андрій Ющенко на законних підставах є співзасновником фірми "Галицька марка".

Про це Рибачук сказав на прес-конференції у 21-го жовтня.

Рибачук також повідомив, що ця фірма сина президента законно перемогла в інвестиційному конкурсі, за яким отримала історичну будівлю та земельну ділянку в Івано-Франківську на вулиці Вірменська, 1.

За його словами, в конкурсі взяли участь 6 учасників, які крім умов конкурсу запропонували таке:

"ПП Попадинець В.М - десять квадратних метрів додаткової площі, ПП Расимов Р.С. – 55 тисяч гривень та протягом пяти років надати спонсорську допомогу солодощами для дітей на суму 5 тисяч гривень щорічно. ТОВ Галінвест додаткових зобовязань не надало".

"ПП "Ско" – 50 тисяч гривень. ТОВ "МЖК-Експрес 24" – 20 квадратних метрів загальної площі. ТОВ "Галицька марка" – 60 тисяч гривень", - додав він і зазначив: "Оскільки найкращі умови були запропоновані товариством "Галицька марка", компанія була визнана переможцем інвестиційного конкурсу".

"Компанія береться реставрувати будинок і прилеглу територію, щоб вона відповідала статусу центральної частини європейського міста", - додав він.

Щодо намірів знести цей будинок і начебто побудувати на його місці казино, Рибачук сказав, що розпорядженням Кабміну Януковича Івано-Франківську "було надано дозвіл на знесення пам'ятки архітектури місцевого значення по вулиці Вірменській, 1".

Розпорядження видано на підставі закону про охорону культурної спадщини, додав Рибачук, але 16 грудня 2004 до цього нормативного акту було внесено зміни.

"Пам'ятки архітектури, їх частини, пов'язані з ними рухомі і нерухомі частини, заборонено зносити", - сказав Рибачук.

"Видане попередньою владою розпорядження Кабміну має бути переглянуто і приведене у відповідність до чинного законодавства, щоб зберегти для наступних поколінь івано-франківські пам'ятники архітектури", - додав голова секретаріату президента.

Як відомо, "Українська правда" писала про те, що син Ющенка є власником 25% ТОВ "Галицька марка". Згідно з базою Держкомстату, фірма займається роздрібною торгівлею.

Королева Британії вручила нагороду Ющенку

(ForUm)—Британська Королева під час урочистої церемонії в Лондоні 16-го жовтня вручила президенту Ющенку відзнаку королівського інституту міжнародних відносин Chatham House за його роль у збереженні миру під час політичних змін в Україні.

Президент Ющенко став першим лауреатом щорічної нагороди, яку присуджують особам за найважливіший внесок у покращення міжнародних відносин.

У Лондоні президент Ющенко також зустрівся з британським прем'єр-міністром Тоні Блером, де, як очікувалося, йшлося про підготовку запланованого на грудень саміту Україна-ЄС.

Промовляючи в королівському інституті міжнародних відносин, Ющенко повторив, що Україна прагне стати членом Європейського Союзу і НАТО і сказав, що переговори про членство в НАТО можуть розпочатися вже навесні. Президент Ющенко на зустрічі з фінансистами у Лондонському Сіті пообіцяв покращення умов, щоб привабити більше закордонних інвестицій.

Одна з обіцянок президента полягала у тому, що українська влада забезпечить верховенство закону. Пан Ющенко також пообіцяв боротися з корупцією.

Він також багато говорив про, які він сказав, помилки минулого уряду.

Президент Ющенко, літак якого 45 хвилин кружляв над Лондоном, чекаючи на чергу на посадку, розпочав свій робочий візит з виступу в Королівському інституті міжнародних відносин Четем Гаус, який присудив йому нагороду за його роль у збереженні мирного характеру політичних змін в Україні, за те, що, як було сказано, кардинальні політичні зміни в Україні під час Помаранчевої революції не стали поштовхом до нового конфлікту в Європі.

Ющенко сказав, що це здобуток всієї української нації, яка заслужила цю високу відзнаку. Віктор Балмер-Томас - директор Четем Хауса високо оцінив Ющенка , як державного діяча, якому, за його словами, вдалося так вилаштувати відносини з іншими країнами, що Україна, як визначальна держава у Східній Європі і найголовніший західний сусід Росії, не спричинила серйозного погіршення у стосунках між Росією і Західною Європою.

Королева Великої Британії Єлизавета II вручає Президенту України Віктору Ющенку нагороду Королівського інституту міжнародних досліджень.

Цю нагороду особисто Віктору Ющенку вручила королева Єлизавета Друга.

Промовляючи годину в Chatham House, Ющенко сказав, що серце Європи - в Україні, і що Європа не може жити без свого серця. Тобто головні політичні акценти - були зроблені на входженні України до Євроструктур, інтеграції до ЄС і НАТО, що він назвав ключовим завданням зовнішньої політики.

Ющенко прогнозує, що уже навесні можуть розпочатися переговори про можливий вступ України до НАТО, що після виконання плану дій між Україною і ЄС має бути укладено якісно нову угоду про асоціацію європейського типу. Однак він визнав, що Україна ще має пройти шлях до повноправної інтеграції - тобто досягти європейські соціальні, економічні і політичні стандарти.

Президент Ющенко зустрівся з Тоні Блером, який сказав, що британська нагорода - це визнання того, що зробив український народ і його лідер на шляху до демократії. На Даунінґ Стріт знову йшлося про сподівання України на вступ до ЄС. Британія зараз головує в Євросоюзі, і тут обговорювали деталі проведення грудневого самміту Україна - ЄС, на якому головуватиме британський прем'єр-міністр.

Тоні Блер сказав, що Європа чекає від України продовження реформ, що Британія підтримує процеси демократизації в Україні, і що вона може розраховувати на підтримку з боку Лондона.

Президент Ющенко побував також в агентстві "Блюмберг", яке вважається найпливовішим агенством, що спеціалізується саме на бізнес-інформації. Приватна дискусія з українським президентом, яку воно влаштувало у Лондонському Сіті для фінансистів, - перша зустріч в такому форматі. Оцінити свої перспективи на новому ринку прийшли інвестори, банкіри, експерти-аналітики, які добре розуміють, що якою б складною не була революція - це канун ще складніших часів, коли треба зберегти динаміку економіки. Президент Ющенко, який прийшов у Сіті, щоб завоювати інвестора, зробив акцент саме на економічному просторі, на тому, що вдалося і особливо, що не вдалося за десять місяців.

Серед важкої спадщини він назвав корупцію і злиття бізнесу з політикою, з чим зараз бореться нова влада, серед прорахунків нової влади, він назвав різке падіння валового внутрішнього продукту, що постійно знижувався з січня до серпня, і інвестиції, які скоротилися щонайменше вчетверо. Він визнав, що перегляд приватизації тисячі підприємств викликав паніку в діловому світі, і назвав причини економічних прорахунків - об'єктивні - постреволюційний шок і суб'єктивні - політичні чвари.

Президент Ющенко також окреслив перспективи - він заявив, що угода про вільну економічну зону з ЄС буде укладена вже наступного року, вже цього року Україна буде у Світовій Організації Торгівлі, і вже цього місяця дістане статус ринкової економіки, що, зараз економічні показники вперше продемонстрували тенденцію до зростання, і запевнив, що на кінець року приріст економіки становитиме 5 відсотків, що вище ніж всередньому в інших європейських країнах.

Він назвав пріоритетні галузі, де Україна тримає міжнародну планку - літакобудування, космічна техніка, перспективне поле - сільське господарство, особливо, коли невдовзі буде завершено приватизацію землі, що може привабити інвестора.

Тоні Блер і Віктор Ющенко

10 community activists honouored

Goldring, Zwozdesky receive special awards

(UkrNews/UCC-APC)—Ten Ukrainian community activists were honoured with Hetman Volunteer Awards during the Ukrainian Canadian Congress - Alberta Provincial Council's 5th Annual Hetman Awards Banquet held at St. John's Cultural Centre in Edmonton, Oct. 2.

Alberta Education Minister Gene Zwozdesky and Edmonton East MP Peter Goldring both received special recognition at the event.

Catherine Chichak, Past President of UCC-APC introduced Zwozdesky and recognized his ongoing support and efforts to continually help the Ukrainian community grow and develop. In particular, his efforts in helping with the fundraising drive for the election observer project in December helped ensure that a sizeable group of Albertans were able to take part as observers in the final election on Dec. 26, 2004 in Ukraine.

In his very sincere and emotional thank you comments, Zwozdesky made note of the other recipients of this years' Hetman Awards and how almost all, if not all of the individuals, have some type of affiliation to education or teaching. He emphasized the importance of this and how we must continue teaching and passing along our history, culture, heritage and language specifically, and how important education is in society overall.

Nadia Koziak, Treasurer of UCC-APC introduced Goldring, who was presented a special award for his dedication to helping ensure a fair and democratic election process in Ukraine last year. Goldring was in Ukraine in November and December as an official election observer and helped rally support in Ottawa for the Orange Revolution. The plaque presented to Goldring, read in part:

"The Ukrainian Canadian Congress – Alberta Provincial Council has unanimously agreed to present you with a Special Ukrainian Canadian Congress – Alberta Provincial Council Award. This award is presented periodically to a non-Ukrainian who has made significant voluntary contributions to our community."

Daria Luciw, Vice President of UCC-APC, introduced the keynote speaker for the evening, Edmonton Mayor Stephen Mandel. He spoke of the many positive aspects of the City of Edmonton, and reflected specifically on the hard working nature of Edmontonians. This, Mandel said, can be attributed to the peoples that settled this area and the work ethic they brought with them. Whether they were Ukrainians, Jews, Poles or others from Eastern Europe at the time the first waves of settlers from that part of the world emigrated, they came, worked the land, built community and helped create the prosperous City we live in today. Mandel praised the early work of Michael Gowda, the Ukrainian Bookstore as the first bookstore in Edmonton which is still open today, and other community undertakings including the recent election observer project for the December election in Ukraine.

Hetman Volunteer Awards were established by the UCC - APC in 1998 to recognize outstanding Albertan volunteer leaders who have made significant contributions to the life of the Ukrainian Canadian community.

These awards are presented annually in three categories: youth, adults, and senior, and one award may be presented posthumously.

This year's awardees were:

Nellie Wasylik, who has volunteered endless hours as a cook for Ukrainian Churches in Pathfinder, Derwent, and Fidelity since 1945, and assisted and organized the annual youth Catechism program for over 40 children ages 7-15. By volunteering with the youth of the church for over 30 years, she has helped over 1500 children with the catechismal program.

Catherine Chichak, who was President of the Ukrainian Catholic Women's League of Canada – Edmonton Eparchy and established a Ukrainian language course and handbook for adults. She has been president of UCWLC on local, provincial and national levels, acted as a representative for the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations, the World Congress of Ukrainians, and the Ukrainian Canadian Congress. As past president of the UCC – APC, Chichak was successful in obtaining a government grant for a new office, and was actively involved in planning and attending conferences and banquets.

Dr. Harry Hohol, who serves as president of the Alberta Ukrainian Self Reliance League, has volunteered for, and has been President of St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Church Men's Club, St. Andrew's Sobor Parish, The Order of St. Andrew, and of St. John's Institute and has shown leadership qualities by dedicating his time as an Edmonton consistory representative for the Ukrainian Orthodox Church for 10 years.

Eva Tomiuk, who is a founding member of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, prepares the Host bread for communion, and instructs others in the art of pysanka, embroidery and bread making. For 29 years has been a committee member for Ukrainian Heritage Days and provided pysanka and embroidery displays, as well as volunteering her time to created embroidery samples from 58 regions in Ukraine and pysanka card samples that help explain the symbolism behind her craft.

Paul Groch, who is currently the president of the University of Alberta Ukrainian Students' Society (USS) and has established a permanent office for the USS, increased education for students about career opportunities relevant to their Ukrainian heritage, and has coordinated initiatives for website programming, increased communication and financial development for the Ukrainian Students' Society.

Andrew Hladyshevsky, who as President of the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko (1997-2005) has initiated many projects, including the Managed Funds Foundation to maximize and organize Ukrainian organizational funds. He currently serves as Second Vice-President of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress National and has chaired the Internment Committee and brought together members of the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association and the UCC, for a unified presentation on Internment to the Government of Canada.

Joyce Sirsky-Howell, who has been involved in teaching Ukrainian embroidery techniques in Ukrainian Bilingual elementary schools since 1989. As a member of St. Basil's Ukrainian Catholic Women's League and the Eparchial Museum Committee she demonstrated her leadership by helping with Paska baking for the UCWLC and pysanka making, paska baking and embroidery with the Children of Mary from St. Josaphat's and St. Basil's Ukrainian Catholic churches.

Marion Ostapchuk, who serves as an executive on the board of the Alberta Ukrainian Dance Association (AUDA) and has assisted with the operation of Ukrainian dance camps, Hopak in the Park, and in founding the Iskra Ukrainian Dance Society. She has provided Elementary students with the opportunity to experience Ukrainian dancing at Holyrood Elementary School and has been a volunteer for the St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Church Ladies Auxiliary for 31 years and is currently on the executive.

Lesia Pohoreski, who has organized "Zustrich," a retreat for teens to cultivate, understand and appreciate Ukrainian culture through dance, song, sports and survival skills for the past two years. She has shown her dedication to the Ukrainian arts and her commitment to youth by volunteering as the conductor of the Bereza Ukrainian Choir and Ensemble at the St. John's Institute, organizing Malanka and skits performed by Youth, and planning youth entertainment for Mother's Day Brunches at St. John's Ukrainian Orthodox Church

Orest Soltykevych, who for the past 10 years has been the director of the Ukrainian Orthodox Youth Choir and President of the Ukrainian Music Society of Edmonton. He was a founding member of the Ukrainian Male Chorus of Edmonton, and has been the director of the Ukrainian Male Chorus of Edmonton (1984 -2004). Under his leadership the UMCE completed two recordings including a compilation commemorating the of 100 years of Ukrainian pioneers in Canada.

Pirates seize Ukrainian ship off Somali coast

Pirates seized a Ukrainian cargo ship off the Somali coast for ransom, and Ukrainian authorities have initiated negotiations with the hijackers, reports The Associated Press citing a Foreign Ministry official Oct. 21.

Pirates hijacked the vessel, Panagia, on Oct. 20 with 22 crew members on board about 160 kilometers off the Somali coast, and demanded a US$700,000 ransom.

The ship, owned by a company from Ukraine's southern city of Odesa, was sailing under a Liberian flag and was carrying iron ore from South Africa to Turkey.

The ship is currently anchored just over 3 kilometers off Somalia's east coast, ministry spokesman Dmytro Svystkov said.

"We have spoken with the captain of the ship ... all the Ukrainian citizens are alive and well," he said. "The crew can move around the ship, but they are under permanent control by the pirates."

Ukraine has ordered its diplomats to ask the authorities of France, Great Britain and the United States, as well as NATO officials, to "review all the options for freeing the ship and the crew," Svystkov said.

UCCLA issues documentary collection on Great Famine

(UCCLA)—With the assistance of the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Association of Calgary, and other donors, the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association (UCCLA) has just published a collection of Soviet era documents dealing with the causes and consequences of the 1932-1933 famine in Soviet Ukraine, the *Holodomor*.

Compiled and edited by Kyiv's Professor Yuri Shapoval, translated by Marta D Olynyk, with a foreword by Dr Lubomyr Luciuk, this 336 page book, *The Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 in Ukraine* (Kingston: Kashtan Press, 2005, ISBN# 1-896354-38-6, $35) consists of 81 documents (mainly in Russian, some in Ukrainian) complemented with English language annotations, a list of acronyms, and an introductory essay (in English and Ukrainian). A final document, dated May 15, 2003, is the statement in Ukraine's parliament that recognized the famine as a genocidal act.

Commenting on the release of this documentary collection, UCCLA's director of research, Dr Luciuk said:

"Until scholars and students outside Ukraine have access to primary source materials on the *Holodomor* there will always be those who dispute the nature and consequences of this politically engineered famine. Our intention was to help Professor Shapoval make his selection of documents available, first by publishing them in book form, and then by distributing them to international repository libraries. We are pleased to note that the book is now being catalogued in selected libraries, from Russia to Israel, the United States, Australia, and Japan. Limited resources made it impossible to have a large print run but we are grateful to those donors who know the importance of placing such books in the public domain. And, of course, we have been able to do so just before this year's official commemorations of the *Holodomor*, which will take place across Ukraine on 26 November. Much, much more work of this sort needs to be done if the world is ever going to recognize the unprecedented nature of this Soviet crime against humanity."

Yushchenko vetoes Soviet earnings compensation bill

(RFE/RL)—President Viktor Yushchenko has vetoed a bill obliging the government to compensate Ukrainian citizens for devalued or lost savings that were deposited in the former Soviet Union's Savings Bank, Interfax-Ukraine reported on Oct. 24.

Finance Minister Viktor Pynzenyk said the government would have to pay 12 billion hryvnias (US$2.4 billion) annually beginning next year if the bill were enacted.

"We understand the problem, but the figure [we would have to pay] reaches 12 billion hryvnias per year.

It is an issue of capabilities and wishful thinking," Pynzenyk said.

According to him, a 2006 budget draft provides for the payment of 600 million hryvnias in compensation for the savings Ukrainians held in the Soviet-era Savings Bank.

Russia threatens Ukraine, Georgia

Russia's Foreign minister is warning Georgia and other former members of the Soviet Union against what he termed disloyalty, reports United Press International.

Sergei Lavrov, noting that Russia has vast reserves of oil and natural gas, said the Kremlin was ready to use "all of the means of economic pressure" against disloyal members of the Confederation of Independent States, MosNews reported Oct. 13.

Speaking to members of Russia's upper house of lawmakers, Lavrov said the Kremlin is troubled by the way "in which such states as Ukraine, Georgia and Azerbaijan build up their relations with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization," damaging "traditionally good relations" with Russia.

A continuation of such a westward tilt, he said, could result in Russia selling those nations oil and natural gas at world prices, rather than the discounts they now enjoy.

Newsbriefs

Grim demographic prospects

(RFE/RL)—The Institute of Demography and Social Studies of the Ukrainian National Academy of Sciences estimates that the country's population will dwindle from the 47 million people recorded last month to 35 million in 2050 if the current demographic trend continues, Interfax-Ukraine reported on Oct. 21.

Miners demand increase

(RFE/RL)—Some 30,000 coal miners staged a rally in Donetsk on Oct. 13, demanding that the government increase financing for the coal industry and pay September wages at all mines, Ukrainian and international news agencies reported. A state budget draft for 2006 envisages some $800 million for the coal industry, a figure seen as too low by miners.

Ukraine aids stricken Pakistan areas

(Ukrainian Journal)—Ukraine will rush a mobile hospital and 10 mln hryvnia in emergency supplies, such as tents and food, to alleviate aftereffects of a major earthquake in Pakistan, officials said Oct. 12. The Ukrainian government approved two resolutions on the relief operation, four days after the earthquake that had leveled many homes in remote areas of Pakistan with death toll estimated at nearing 30,000.

Пташиного грипу в Україні не знайшли

(Українська правда)—Кілька тисяч осіб в Україні вже пройшли тестування на виявлення захворювання пташиним грипом, однак у жодному випадку вірус виявлений не був, повідомив заступник міністра охорони здоров'я Сергій Бережной.

"Ми активно шукаємо, але поки не знайшли жодного випадку", - сказав він кореспондентові агентства "Інтерфакс-Україна" 26–го жовтня в Києві.

За його словами, у кожному великому місті є достатня кількість тест-систем, що використовуються, виходячи зі ступеня ризику занедужати пташиним грипом.

"Є ціла низка факторів, які лікар повинен враховувати, тому що пташиний грип може з'явитися тільки за певних умов", - сказав Бережной.

Так, за його словами, лікарі в першу чергу призначають тестування людям із груп підвищеного ризику, таким як працівники птахоферм або тим, хто міг контактувати з птахом, а також люди, що були в країнах, у яких виявлені випадки захворювання людей пташиним грипом.

Бережной повідомив, що всі прикордонні області України оголошені зоною підвищеного ризику, де карантинні служби перебувають у стані високої готовності.

Зокрема, для запобігання влучення пташиного грипу на територію України карантинні служби беруть на облік усіх людей, що в'їжджають у країни з ознаками захворювання грипом або ОРЗ, і потім інформація про таких людей передається в регіони, куди вони прямують, а самим людям рекомендується терміново звернутися до лікаря.

Заступник міністра також підкреслив, що до сьогоднішнього дня у світі немає жодного зареєстрованого випадку, який би підтверджував можливість передачі модифікованого грипу від людини до людини.

За даними, наявними на сьогоднішній день, людина може занедужати мутуючим вірусом, тільки якщо вона заразиться одночасно і людським, і пташиним грипом.

Підписано орден на арешт убивць українського журналіста

(Українська правда)—Мадридський суддя 19–го жовтня підписав ордер про міжнародний розшук трьох американських військових, членів екіпажу танку, який розстріляв у квітні 2003 року готель "Палестина" у Багдаді.

Тоді загинули два журналісти - Тарас Процюк, та його іспанський колега Хосе Коусо.

Про таку ініціативу з боку Іспанії повідомляє агенція Associated Press, посилаючись на судові джерела.

Суддя Сантьяго Педрас підписав ордер на арешт сержанта Шона Гібона, капітана Філіпа Уолфорда та підполковника Філіпа де Кемпа, усі троє належать до 3-ьої стрілецької дивізії американської армії.

Суддя Педрас застосував такий захід через те, що Сполучені Штати відмовлялися співпрацювати належним чином з цього приводу.

Американські військові посадовці стверджують, що екіпаж танку відкрив вогонь, через те, що вирішив, ніби то став мішенню ворога. Колін Пауелл, колишній держсекретар США пояснював, що американське розслідування дійшло висновків, що зброю було застосовано виправдано. Такий крок мадридського судді має сприяти просуненню справи щодо загибелі іспанського журналіста Госе Коусо (телеканал "Телесінко") та Тараса Процюка (Ройтер).

Наприкінці 2003 року родина Коусо вирішила переслідувати у суді трьох членів екіпажу американського танку.

Закарпатські русини вимагають визнати їх національність

(ForUm)—Русини, які проживають на території Закарпаття, вимагають визнати їх окремою національністю.

Як передає кореспондент, про це заявили учасники міжнародної науково-практичної конференції "Карпатська Русь — духовність і культура", яка проходить в Ужгороді з 25 по 27 жовтня, передає «УНІАН».

Як повідомив організатор конференції, настоятель Ужгородського православного кафедрального собору Дмитро Сидор, "права русинів порушуються протягом 15 років, протягом яких нас не визнають як окрему національність і хочуть видати за гілку українського народу. Проте ми окремий народ зі своєю мовою і своєю культурою".

Організаторами конференції виступили Міжнародний карпатський інститут, Міжнародна Кирило-Мефодіївська слов'янська академія і Асоціація русинських організацій "Сойм Підкарпатських Русинів". В роботі конференції беруть участь близько 50 вчених, політологів, юристів, представників Православної церкви з України, Росії, Чехії, Польщі і Словаччини.

Військові України і Франції домовилися про співпрацю

(ForUm)—Військові відомства України і Франції підписали Програму співпраці на 2006 рік. Про це повідомили в прес-службі Міністерства оборони. Документ підписаний під час візиту представників Збройних сил України до Франції, який проходив у рамках засідання спільноїх українсько-французької комісії з питань військової співпраці, передає «УНІАН». За словами глави української делегації полковника Юрія Самойленка, робота комісії проходила у доброзичливій і конструктивній атмосфері. Завдяки розумінню сторін про необхідність подальшого розвитку двосторонньої співпраці між військовими України та Франції на переговорах вдалося досягти домовленості про ширший спектр взаємин і ініціатив.

Росіяни вже не вважають Україну братом і жаліють за революцію

(Українська правда/Інтерфакс-Україна)—Більшість росіян (71%) вважають, що відносини між Росією й Україною в цілому будуть розвиватися в позитивному ключі.

Зокрема 38% вважають, що відносини будуть нормальними, але не дружніми чи братерськими, а 33% - що усе-таки вони будуть союзницькими.

Лише 13% росіян прогнозують погіршення російсько-українських відносин через тяжіння Києва до Заходу.

Такі дані надали 19–го жовтня "Інтерфаксу" у Всеросійському центрі вивчення громадської думки (ВЦВГД) за результатами опитування на початку жовтня 1600 осіб у 153 населених пунктах у 46 областях, краях і республіках Росії.

Дослідження соціологів показують, що серед російських респондентів до 60 років переважає думка, що відносини двох країн хоча і нормалізуються, однак дружніми і братерськими вже не будуть.

Старшій віковій групі дружба і союз двох країн уявляється більш ймовірною, ніж просто нормальні відносини (39% і 32%).

"Помаранчева революція", на думку третини росіян (36%), скоріше, зашкодила сусідній країні. Менше опитаних (29%) думають, що ця подія нічого не змінила в житті України. Лише 8% росіян вважають наслідки "помаранчевої революції" скоріше виграшними для України. Кожен четвертий вагається висловити думку по цьому питанню.

Російська молодь у віці 18-24 років відсутність реальних змін фіксує дещо частіше, а представники інших вікових груп, як правило, знаходять більше негативних наслідків для України, констатують соціологи.

Генеральний директор ВЦВГД Валерій Федоров заявив, що "революційна зміна влади (в Україні) жодним чином не могла стати і не стала для росіян прикладом для наслідування", і вважає, що "сьогодні вітер революційних змін над євразійськими ландшафтами явно стихає".

Федоров у своєму коментарі, опублікованому 19–го жовтня на сторінках "Російської газети", пише: "Виявилася явна штучність висунутої київськими, лондонськими й іншими політичними мрійниками конструкції, яка передбачала неухильний тріумфальний хід уже "пост-пострадянської" влади столицями східнослов'янських і центральноазіатських республік".

На думку Федорова, сьогодні в Україні "уже розгортається склока навколо образу "самого послідовного і непримиренного" з "помаранчевих", а після розпаду правлячого блоку Віктора Ющенка і Юлії Тимошенко "колишні партнери і "помаранчеві герої", швидше за все, стануть основними суперниками на майбутніх парламентських виборах".

Відповідно до опитування ВЦВГД, сьогодні президент Віктор Ющенко й екс-прем'єр Юлія Тимошенко викликають у росіян подібні, більшою мірою нейтрально-негативні, почуття. Насамперед - байдужність (42-43%), недовіра (15-16%) і антипатія (10-12%).

Позитивне сприйняття росіянами Ющенка скоріше раціональне ("повага", "надія", "довіра" набирають у сумі 12 пунктів, "симпатія", "замилування", "любов" - 3 пункти), ставлення до Тимошенко - емоційно-раціональне (по 7 пунктів).

Недавня відставка уряду Юлії Тимошенко, на думку кожного другого росіянина (50%), жодним чином не вплине на відносини Москви і Києва. Серед тих, хто у зв'язку з відставкою передбачає деякі зміни в двосторонніх відносинах, позитивний прогноз популярніше негативного (+19%, -11%).

Президентом Польщі став Качинський

(Українська правда)—Консерватор Лех Качинський здобув перемогу в другому турі президентських виборів, які відбулись 23–го жовтня, офіційно оголосила Національна виборча комісія Польщі в понеділок, по завершенні підрахунку голосів.

Качинського підтримали 54,04% виборців. Його головний суперник Дональд Туск зібрав 45,96% голосів. У виборах взяли участь 50,9% зареєстрованих польських виборців.

Туск визнав поразку на виборах іще 23–го жовтня, а Качинський закликав опонентів з партії Громадянська платформа до швидкого формування коаліційного уряду.

Політика обох кандидатів щодо України збігалася. І Качинський і Туск наголошували на тому, що будуть Польща й надалі залишатиметься адвокатом України на шляху до ЄС. А Київ залишиться стратегічним партнером Польщі.

Перемога Качинського закріпила поворот Польщі "управо" після того, як правоцентристські партії "Закон і справедливість" Ярослава Качинського і "Цивільна платформа" Туска перемогли на парламентських виборах у вересні правлячих лівих.

Помірний націоналіст, який з обережністю відноситься до європейської інтеграції, Качинський змінить на президентському посту Олександра Квасьневського, який очолював Польщу два п'ятирічні терміни поспіль і не мав права обиратися на третій термін.

Президент в Польщі є верховним головнокомандувачем армії, він має право накладати вето на закони парламенту, а також висуває кандидатуру прем'єр-міністра, який має в країні великі повноваженнями. В деяких випадках Президент наділяється правом розпуску парламенту.

Шостий конкурс почався з Криму

Михайло Слабошпицький, *Виконавчий директор Ліги Українських Меценатів (Київ)*
Оксана Коваленко, *Виконавчий директор Освітньої Фундації Петра Яцика*

Як уже повідомлялося, шостий Міжнародний конкурс з української мови ім. Петра Яцика розпочався в Криму.

Таке побажання прозвучало від кримських учителів-мовників 9 березня нинішнього року в київському Будинку вчителя під час урочистої церемонії нагородження учасників патріотичного мовного турніру та їхніх учителів. Відомі на всю Україну педагоги Василь Латанський і Данило Кононенко заявили: "Відкриття цього престижного і популярного мовного турніру саме в Криму може стати, окрім усього іншого, ще й потужною підтримкою всього українства Криму". Організатори конкурсу – Міністерство освіти і науки України, Освітня Фундація Петра Яцика та Ліга українських меценатів – позитивно відгукнулися на цю пропозицію.

Отже, після Запоріжжя, де відкривався п'ятий конкурс, - Крим, де ще складніша ситуація з державною мовою. Адже тільки 6% тамтешніх шкіл – українські. Саме тут, у всуціль зросійщеному Криму, належиться докласти немало зусиль і державі, й українській діаспорі теж – для того, щоб нормалізувати мовну ситуацію. Тобто для того, щоб українська посіла тут становище справді державної мови. Тому будь-які заходи, спрямовані на піднесення престижу української мови тут ще актуальніші ніж будь-де в Україні.

Не випадково саме 9 листопада обирається щороку для врочистого відкриття конкурсу, адже це день українського літописання й української мови.

Впродовж кількох місяців проходять учасники змагання різними його етапами, щоб у самісінькому фіналі – на загальнонаціональному рівні – зустрілися найсильніші з найсильніших. В кожному конкурсі беруть участь понад 5 мільйонів школярів і студентів. Задумаймося над цією цифрою, яка переконливо свідчить про те, що цей турнір – наймасштабніший національний проект в Україні й поза Україною. Понад 2 тисячі школярів і студентів одержують на різних його етапах грошові премії і цінні подарунки.

Конкурс не випадково називається міжнародним – у ньому беруть участь українські діти з колишніх республік Союзу, тепер незалежних держав: Білорусі, Молдови, Латвії, Казахстану, Узбекистану, Азербайджану, Грузії, Вірменії, Росії. Усі переможці там також одержують дипломи й цінні подарунки. Участь східної діаспори в цьому престижному турнірі також має важливе виховне значення передовсім для школярів і студентів в Україні, бо також сприяє вихованню почуття патріотизму й поваги до рідної мови.

Щонайактивнішу участь у цьому турнірі беруть добротворці з західної діаспори, які встановлюють свої премії для переможців різних його етапів. Сотні їхніх імен уже назавжди записано в історію конкурсу. Вони одержали хвилюючі подячні листи від дітей з України. Усім, хто хоче приєднатися до числа меценатів конкурсу, повідомляємо: Ваші пожертви можна надіслати до Освітньої Фундації Петра Яцика на адресу: 5080 Timberlea Blvd., Suit 202, Mississauga ON L4W 4M2 Canada Tel: 905-238-0467

Ваша підтримка націєтворчого мовного турніру - це своєрідна патріотична інвестиція в майбутнє України. Це – ще один крок до української України.

Pope approves GC move to Kyiv

(RISU.org.ua)—Pope Benedict XVI approves the August move of the residence of the head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church (UGCC) from Lviv to Kyiv. This is stated in a letter from Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican secretary of state, to Metropolitan Volodymyr (Sabodan), head of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Moscow Patriarchate (UOC-MP), as the official site of the UOC-MP reported on Oct. 17.

The text of the letter from Cardinal Sodano to Metropolitan Volodymyr states:

"Your Beatitude, I was entrusted by His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI to thank you for your letter dated 16 August 2005, in which Your Beatitude made several observations concerning the relations between the Ukrainian Orthodox Church and the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church.

"I would like to reassure you that the Pontiff paid special attention to the concern of the pastors of your church over the faithful who have not recovered from the deep wounds received from atheist ideology. He also studied your commentaries concerning the move of the residence of the head of the UGCC.

"As Your Beatitude knows, the UGCC has been in communion with the head of Rome since the time when a part of the church territory of Kyiv renewed ties with the bishop of Rome. Its life, in harmony with the Eastern tradition and disciplines, is regulated by the Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches. According to this canonical decree, the decision about the transfer of the center of the major archbishop with the change of his title has been taken by the Synod of the UGCC. Previously Pope John Paul II gave his consent to this decision, respecting the rules and canons of the Synods of the Eastern Churches.

"The above-mentioned decision of the UGCC has been motivated by the desire to provide more effective ministry to its members. Christian hope teaches us that dialogue is the best way to know more about each other. Such a spiritual mood, especially in the time of difficulties and changes in Ukraine, can help all Christians give a great spiritual and human response for the sake of national and ethnic progress.

"Your Beatitude, His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI has very good memories of meeting you. He asked me to reassure you that his respectful and brotherly feelings cannot be changed and he prays to God to give our churches wisdom for the continuation of our dialogue and mutual respect. In this case, we will bear witness to the love that Jesus Christ teaches us and will help the world believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, sent by His Father. With brotherly love, Angelo Sodano, secretary of state."

The official site of the UOC-MP posted the following: "It is necessary to point out that the answer of the Vatican to the letter of His Beatitude Metropolitan Volodymyr, in which he voiced deep concern over the move of the residence of the Catholics from Lviv to Kyiv, cannot be called other than 'a bureaucratic note.' It is hard to give a proper assessment to the appeal for the dialogue of churches voiced in the letter of the Vatican secretary of state, as it was suggested by people who do not want to listen to the opinion of the other party and are clearly conducting the policy of proselytism."

Ukrainian Orthodox approach unification

(RISU)—On Oct. 11 in Kyiv, hierarchical sobors (assemblies) of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Kyivan Patriarchate (UOC-KP) and Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church (UAOC) were held, dealing with the question of the unification of these two churches. Also, a joint conference of the bishops of the UOC-KP and UAOC was held, which ended with the approval of a final decision setting an approximate date for a unification sobor to be held on. uaorthodox.org posted the following text on that same day.

"Having come to the joint conference and having discussed the necessity of uniting into a single national Ukrainian Orthodox Church, the bishops of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Kyivan Patriarchate and the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church have decided:

• To support the process of unification of the UOC-KP and UAOC into a single national Ukrainian Orthodox Church

• In order to prepare for the unification sobor, to establish a pre-sobor committee consisting of: UOC-KP: Metropolitan Daniil of Rivne and Ostrih, Metropolitan Yevsevii of Poltava and Kremenchuk, Archbishop Dymytrii of Pereiaslav-Khmelnytskyi, Mitred Archpriest Petro Zinych, Ihumen [Abbot] Yevstratii (Zoria). UAOC: Metropolitan Roman of Vinnytsia and Bratslav, Mitred Archpriest Ihor Kurpita, Mitred Archpriest Mykola Kavchak, Mitred Archpriest Bohdan Cheliadyn, Archpriest Vitalii Danchak.

The committee must prepare all necessary drafts of documents and decisions of the unification sobor and agree on other questions regarding the sobor.

• Consider Nov. 19 for the date of the unification sobor

• Approve the total number of delegates of the unification sobor as 300 people. Two hundred delegates will be elected from the UOC-KP and one hundred from the UAOC.

The document was signed on behalf of the bishops of the UOC-KP by Patriarch Filaret (Denysenko) of Kyiv and all Rus-Ukraine and on behalf of the UAOC by Metropolitan Mefodii (Kudriakov) of Kyiv and all Ukraine.

As already reported by RISU, in September 2005 two joint meetings of plenipotentiary committees on the unification of the UOC-KP and UAOC were held. According to the decisions approved by them on Sept. 11 in Kyiv, the meeting of hierarchical sobors of the UOC-KP and UAOC was held, as well as a joint conference of the bishops of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Kyivan Patriarchate and the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church, in which virtually all hierarchs of the UOC-KP and UAOC participated.

It was also decided at a joint meeting of the Hierarchical Sobor (Assembly) and Patriarchal Council of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church (UAOC) to elect the head of the church combining the UAOC and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Kyivan Patriarchate (UOC-KP) by casting lots from among candidates proposed by the unification sobor (paragraph 4 of the resolution). The decision is dated 11 October 2005. This proposal, however, was rejected by Patriarch Filaret (Denysenko), head of the UOC-KP.

The UAOC proposed to select by vote three candidates from among the higher clergy of the UOC-KP and UAOC and to elect the head from among them by lot, so that the choice "would be considered the will of God."

However, Patriarch Filaret rejected any methods other than election of the head from among the two heads, the head of the UOC-KP and the head of the UAOC. But the head of the UAOC, Metropolitan Mefodii (Kudriakov), has announced his reluctance to be a candidate.

The official site of the UAOC reports that this church is put in an unequal position and, virtually, will have no influence on decision-making, due to the uneven representation of the two churches at the unification sobor (200 persons from the UOC-KP and 100 persons from the UAOC) and decision-making by simple majority of votes.

The UAOC also decided at its meeting that it will keep the Patriarchate of Constantinople informed of the progress of the unification process.

Human trafficking groups arrested in Kharkiv

(ForUm)—Kharkiv Department of the Ukrainian Security Service along with the Kharkiv Police Department to Fight Human Trafficking Crimes arrested three criminal groups which were engaged in export of Ukrainian girls abroad for sexual exploitation. The press service of the Ukrainian Security Service reported.

The officials of the regional the Security Service Department exposed the criminal activity of Ukrainian citizen who organized export Kharkiv dwellers in Baltic countries. According to agreement with foreign clients, she had to arrange the departure of three girls in Vilnius from the Kyiv Central Railroad Terminal. But the law enforcement agencies interfered with her efforts.

Another criminal group consisted of three malefactors were arrested in Kharkiv Railroad Terminal when they were making an attempt to send two girls to Moscow. It was the main human traffic channel to Moscow exposed in Kharkiv region.

The last criminal case was instituted against the citizen of Ukraine who had organized the human trafficking from Ukraine to the Great Britain. He was the member of the international criminal group.

The criminal cases have been brought and the investigation is to be continued.

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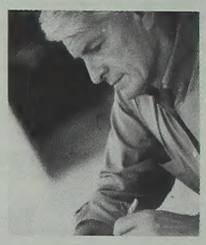
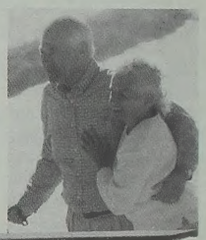
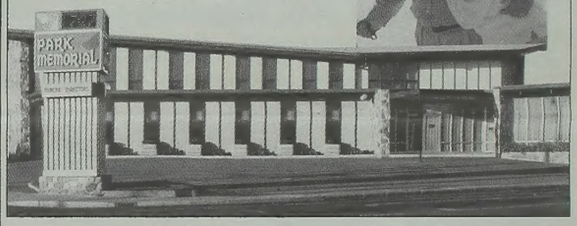

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Kyiv hammer Riga

BC Kyiv sent out an early warning shot to their rivals for this season's EuroCup with a comfortable win over BC Barons Riga in Group G, Oct. 25.

The Ukrainian giants ran Dynamo St Petersburg close in last season's FIBA Europe League final and showed they could again be Final Four contenders with a 99-72 victory in the opener for both sides.

Kyiv were big favourites going into this game, with Barons only having just taken up a place in the competition following the unexpected departure of Pinar Karsiyaka.

Kyiv got a balanced scoring attack with five players in double figures, led by summer recruit Michael Harris' 17.

The 22-year-old forward averaged 20.5 points per game in the NCAA with Rice University in Texas last season and has made a positive start to his professional career, helping Kyiv to three games from three in the Ukrainian championship and now a winning start in Europe.

The Ukrainian champions can also boast a strong defence.

Barons peppered their basket from distance but landed just six of 27 (22.2%) from behind the arc.

Kyiv dominated the boards in this contest, pulling down 41 rebounds to just 23 for Barons.

The hosts effectively put the game way in the first quarter when they raced into 28-14 lead.

They stretched their lead to 56-35 by half-time.

Michailo Anisimov, Barons' 21-year-old center, had 17 points in defeat while Lithuanian team-mate Giedrius Gustas weighed in with 16.

Azovmash push Dynamo St Petersburg to limit

(FIBA)—Dynamo St Petersburg won all 20 games on their way to the FIBA Europe League crown in the 2004-05 campaign.

The Russians on Oct. 25 picked up right where they left off by turning back a gritty Azovmash, 77-72 in the Group A EuroCup opener for both sides.

Now under the guidance of coach Fotis Katsikaris, St Petersburg got superlative efforts from star duo Kelly McCarty and Ognjen Askrabic, and a spark from new point guard Jerry McCullough.

McCarty, the most valuable player of last season's triumphant Final Four in Istanbul, poured in a game-high 19 points while McCullough, the replacement for Ed Cota, had 13 points and 11 assists.

Serbo-Montenegrin center Askrabic weighed in with 10 points, seven rebounds and five assists.

Dynamo beat BC Kyiv in the title game of the FIBA Europe League. They faced another Ukrainian heavyweight this time, and Azovmash of Mariupol pushed them to the limit.

Khalid El-Amin's three-pointer with 17 seconds to play trimmed Dynamo's advantage to 75-72, but Azovmash, unable to get the steal, fouled former Armani Jeans Milano playmaker McCullough and he buried both free throws for a five-point advantage.

Azovmash center Art Long was then called for an offensive foul, turning the ball back over to Dynamo who held on for the victory.

The visitors showed great resilience in the first half.

After falling behind 37-29 on Dynamo big man Darryl Middleton's jump shot with just under four minutes to play in the second quarter, Azovmash went on a 12-0 run.

Israeli international Lior Lubin buried a three-pointer to start the surge and El-Amin's basket capped it, giving Azovmash a 39-37 advantage at half-time.

El-Amin, one of the top signings for Azovmash in the summer after a sensational campaign at Besiktas, hit a shot from the arc three minutes into the second half to give his side a 47-44 edge, but another Middleton jump shot midway through the quarter followed by an Askrabic dunk off a feed from McCarty gave Dynamo a one-point lead and swung the momentum their way.

A McCarty dunk with 7:09 left in the contest gave Dynamo their biggest lead at 66-55, but Azovmash were not done.

Trailing 73-64 with 3:28 to play, Azovmash outscored Dynamo 8-2 over the next 3:11 and trailed by three with 17 seconds to go.

McCullough's free-throw shooting helped the hosts claim the victory.

El-Amin, a former star with the University of Connecticut who spent time in the NBA but last season played in Turkey, had 18 points to pace Azovmash. Ukrainian center Serhiy Lishchuk contributed 17 and Long added 16 with 13 rebounds.

Panin shoots Perm to victory over Yuzhny

(FIBA Europe)—Ural Great Perm opened their EuroCup Challenge season with a nail-biter on Oct. 19 against visiting side Khimik from Yuzhny, Ukraine.

Trailing by 6 points going into the final quarter Ural Great left it literally to the last minute and it was Vadim Panin's three-pointer that lifted them to victory in a thrilling contest, 87-86. 6,500 fans turned out in Perm to watch the home side open their season in Europe, and they were not dissapointed as both sides put on an offensive show.

After a fast start from the home side the game quickly evened out as Khimik got a handle on Ural Great's fastbreak. It was the visitors who grabbed the initiative in the third period behind a red hot Juris Umbrasko. He hit all three of his three-point attempts in the period, including two in a row, to put Khimik up 64-70 after 30 minutes.

Ural Great Coach Sharon Drucker turned to his trio of foreigners Jasmin Hukic, Jurica Golemac and Andre Hutson in the final quarter and it paid off. They brought their side back into contention in the fourth and with 2 minutes to play, the scores were tied 82-82.

With only 2 possessions remaining, Ural Great found an open Vadim Panin in the corner and his three put the Russian side up 87-86.

Penalty puts Shakhtar over Salonika

(Sporting Life)—Brandao's second-half penalty was all that separated Shakhtar Donetsk and PAOK Salonika in Group G of the UEFA Cup but in truth Shakhtar were comfortable winners, Oct. 20.

The 1-0 scoreline is somewhat misleading as the hosts dominated proceedings throughout, creating a host of goalscoring opportunities in each half.

Shakhtar had to wait 67 minutes to find the breakthrough, yet that solitary strike proved enough with PAOK unable to create any serious threat to Dmytro Shutkov's goal.

Shakhtar's Brazilian striker Brandao was lively in the opening stages, his cross creating the first chance in the sixth minute for fellow striker Ciprian Marica, whose header was blocked by defender Fatih Akyel.

Just a minute later, goalkeeper Daniel Fernandez parried a shot from Darijo Srna for a corner.

The visitors were given some respite but then Ukraine midfielder Anatoliy Tymoschuk went close, shooting narrowly wide from inside the box.

Marica was off target with an overhead kick in the 23rd minute before PAOK finally broke forward, although Marcin Mieciel's shot failed to trouble keeper Shutkov.

Srna and Brazilian playmaker Matuzalem both fired wide as Shakhtar regained control, while a speculative effort from PAOK's Ilias Charalambous in the 37th minute — easily dealt with by Shutkov — was their only other attempt at goal in the first half.

Sports

Brazil international Elano Blumer had been fairly quiet in the opening period but came to life after the interval, having a shot blocked by Nigerian defender Ifeanyi Udeze and then having a 30-yard volley saved by Fernandez. Brandao almost broke the deadlock in the 54th minute when Fernandez was alert enough to save his close-range effort and he was denied by Fernandez again on the hour mark.

The pressure finally told seven minutes later when Dionysios Chasiotis fouled Elano Blumer in the box and Brandao blasted home the spot-kick right-footed.

PAOK replied with Dimitrios Salpingidis and Pantelis Konstantinidis putting in dangerous crosses, while Salpingidis tested Shutkov from distance.

But Matuzalem was determined to give Shakhtar a two-goal cushion, though Fernandez saved from the Brazilian twice in quick succession.

PAOK made two late substitutions in a bid to find an equaliser with their best opportunity falling to Polish striker Mieciel, but his right-footed effort was dealt with by Shutkov.

Dutch get key win in Dnipropetrovsk

(UEFA)—Last season's UEFA Cup semi-finalists AZ Alkmaar began their group stage campaign in this year's competition with a valuable victory at FC Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk, Oct. 20, strikes early in each half from Shota Arveladze and Tarik Sektioui earning a two-goal cushion before defender Serhiy Matiukhin pulled one back for the Ukrainian outfit.

The home side started strongly with Dmytro Semochko having the first shot of the game on six minutes, although Henk Timmer was equal to his effort. The visitors were soon into their stride, however, and created two good chances inside the opening ten minutes. First, Kenneth Perez curled a free-kick straight into the arms of goalkeeper Artem Kusliy before Sektioui sent a close-range shot just wide.

It proved a sign of things to come as the Dutch team went ahead in the 14th minute, Arveladze calmly slotting the ball into the bottom left-hand corner from four metres out. The goal seemed to shake Dnipro's self-belief and they struggled to make progress for the rest of the first half, although Alexsandr Melashchenko might have equalised as he rose to meet Serhiy Nazarenko's corner only to head over the crossbar.

Instead it was Louis van Gaal's men who came closest to scoring before the break when Kusliy was again called into action to save from Perez and Arveladze. The visitors duly got the second goal their inventive attacking play had warranted six minutes into the second half, the impressive Sektioui turning in Perez's corner. Stein Huysegems almost made it three but his close-range effort was blocked by Kusliy.

Dnipro rallied and halved the deficit in the 71st minute, Matiukhin slotting in to round off a rare home attack. The goal invigorated the Ukrainian team, who almost equalised a minute later but Timmer saved well from Sergei Kornilenko. Both sides created chances as the game opened up in the final stages, Kusliy saving well yet again from Grétar Steinsson's header while at the other end Timmer kept out an effort from Melashchenko to ensure AZ held on to the points.

Dnipro coach quits ahead of UEFA Cup game

Struggling Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk, a key supplier of players for the Ukrainian national team, will go into their UEFA Cup match against Middlesbrough Nov. 3 without veteran coach Yevgeny Kucherevsky, reports Reuters.

Kucherevsky resigned on the weekend of Oct. 22-23 with the club languishing in 14th place in the 16-team first division, with 12 points from three victories and in danger of relegation.

He stepped down before the club's last league game — a scoreless draw against Kharkiv Metalist — and was replaced by caretaker coach Vadim Tishchenko.

Kucherevsky had a star-studded record during two tours of duty with the club, the first from 1987-1992, winning the Soviet championship in 1988.

During a post-Soviet coaching mandate from 2001-2005, he guided the club to a series of respectable finishes in the Ukrainian league, including third place in 2003-2004. They were also finalists in the Ukrainian Cup that year.

Tishchenko, a defender on the Soviet national team that won gold medal at the 1988 Seoul Olympics, takes over at the club after a long record within the organisation.

But he says he has no desire to become long-term head coach and would rather hand over the job to someone with the "charisma" Kucharevsky enjoyed.

Ten Dnipro players were in Ukraine's national side, who became the first European nation to qualify for the 2006 World Cup finals, including defenders Andriy Rusal and Vladimir Yezersky, half backs Ruslan Rotan, Sergei Nazarenko and Oleg Shelayev and striker Oleg Venglinsky. Some now play elsewhere.

Dnipro's start in this year's UEFA Cup was less than successful, losing 2-1 at home to Dutch side AZ Alkmaar in their Group D opener Oct. 20.

Ukraine, Russia find themselves in the same pot

(UkrNews/UEFA)—Ukraine and Russia find themselves in the same pot for the UEFA EURO 2008™ qualifying competition, which starts in Montreux, Switzerland on Jan. 27, 2006.

Other countries in Pot 3 include Serbia and Montenegro, Denmark, Norway, Bulgaria and Slovakia

Austria and Switzerland, as host nations, qualify directly for the final tournament. The remaining 50 associations will be drawn into one group, or pot, of eight and six groups of seven teams. The seven group winners and seven runners-up will qualify for the finals.

Pushkina picks up third win in Columbus

(IAAF)—A strong solo effort propelled 40-year-old Ukrainian Lyudmila Pushkina to her third win at the Columbus Marathon.

Unchallenged, the 2002 and 2003 winner, Pushkina reached the line in 2:29:57. The Gainesville, Florida based runner is the only woman to run under 2:30 on the flat Columbus course, a feat she's now accomplished with each of her wins, including her 2:28:09 course record.

Organizers offered a US$25,000 bonus for a sub-2:27 performances, and Pushkina took up the challenge, reaching the half in 1:13:48, but eventually faltered in the latter stages. Despite the late-race setback, Pushkina became the eighth fastest 40+ woman marathoner of all time.

Kryvorizhstal sold for record $4.8 bln

Business

(Ukrainian Journal/RFE/RL)—Mittal Steel of the Netherlands, the world's largest steel producer, won an auction to acquire 93% stake in Kryvorizhstal, Ukraine's largest steelmaker, by offering 24.2 billion hryvnias, or US$4.79 bln, a government spokesman said Oct. 24.

Mittal defeated Arcelor SA of Luxembourg, the world's second largest steelmaker, and a local Ukrainian steel trader Smart-Group, based in Dnipropetrovsk, at the auction that had been broadcast live by two Ukrainian television channels to make the bidding transparent.

The auction, the largest privatization in the country's history, is a major victory for the government, which seeks to attract more foreign investments to the country and to boost economic growth.

The government has been expecting to raise between $2 bln and $3 bln from selling the assets and the winning bid from Mittal dramatically exceeds those expectations.

By acquiring Kryvorizhstal, Mittal boosts its position as the world's biggest steelmaker, which is expected to help the company strengthen its hand in bargaining with carmakers and suppliers of iron ore and coal.

Kryvorizhstal produced 7.1 million metric tons of crude steel and 6 million metric tons of rolled product in 2004, the government has said. This capacity will further boost Mittal, which produced almost 47 million tons of steel in 2004.

The plant produces approximately 20 percent of Ukraine's metal output and had sales of $1.9 billion in 2004. It is considered highly profitable because it uses low-cost raw materials, fuel, and labor.

Dmytro Parfenenko, deputy head of the Ukrainian State Property Fund, told reporters after the auction that the new owner assumes a range of environmental and social obligations by purchasing the plant.

"You know about the strict fixed conditions and the future obligations of the buyer, including economic obligations, investment obligations, a very serious social package which requires social benefits and guarantees for the company's employees, and also the buyer's environmental obligations. May God help them [the owners] fulfill all those [obligations]. On my part I will say that the State Property Fund will exercise strict control over these activities," Parfenenko said.

The sale marks the second time Ukraine has privatized the steel mill. The first time was in 2004, when it was bought by a group of Ukrainian industrialists with close ties to former President Leonid Kuchma — his son-in-law Viktor Pinchuk, in a partnership with Rinat Akhmetov, an ally of then Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych.

That time the plant sold for a mere $800,000— or $4 billion less than on Oct. 24. But the low price caused a scandal, with Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko branding the sale a "theft" before he took office.

Court rulings later struck down the 2004 sale, and the steel mill was returned to the state in June. That freed the government to reprivatize the plant.

Yushchenko told reporters after the auction that his government had delivered on its promises to fight corruption and pursue economic reform. "What happened today proves that Ukraine is capable of carrying out an honest privatization, following all legal procedures," he said. "The Ukrainian state has proved itself. The Ukrainian nation received a well-deserved compliment for the suffering it has endured for many years during the privatization process."

However, the reprivatization of Kryvorizhstal has also drawn some criticism. Some 150 protesters gathered outside the State Property Fund to protest the sale. They held placards reading: "The People Own Kryvorizhstal."

Yushchenko: Kryvorizhstal success will quicken pace of privatization

(Ukrainian Journal)— Ukraine, encouraged by the successful privatization of steel giant Kryvorizhstal, will sell more state assets to foreign investors to speed up restructuring of the economy, President Viktor Yushchenko said Oct. 24.

"The Ukrainian government is confident that only a private owner can be an effective manager," Yushchenko told Lakshmi Mittal, the owner of Mittal Steel, the world's largest steelmaker. "All big Western companies are in private ownership."

Mittal Steel won the auction to acquire 93% of Kryvorizhstal for $4.79 billion, which exceeds by 20% the total money that Ukraine had raised from selling state assets over the past 15 years.

After the auction, Yushchenko met Prime Minister Yuriy Yekhanurov and urged the government to prepare another high-profile privatization over the next few months. Yekhanurov said the government had already identified which assets to sell, but declined to name them.

"It's a very interesting asset," Yekhanurov, smiling, told reporters.

Among the assets that may be sold by the government, industry analysts mention Nikopol Ferroalloy Plant, the world's largest producer of ferroalloys, and an unfinished iron ore dressing plant in the Dnipropetrovsk region.

Nikopol, which was returned by court rulings to the state from ownership by Viktor Pinchuk, the son-in-law of former President Leonid Kuchma, may fetch between $350 mln and $1 bln, industry analysts.

The iron ore dressing plant, known as Kryvorizhskiy Iron Ore Dressing Plant, which is to produce raw material for steel production, absorbed $1.65 bln investment since 1985 and needs $200 mln to start operation, analysts said. Ukraine owns 56.4% in the plant, while Romania owns 28% and Slovakia owns 15.6%, according to the government.

Mittal, when asked about the ore dressing plant at a press conference Oct. 24, said his company had been interested in acquiring the assets and had been discussing the issue with Ukrainian authorities over the past four years. Other potential bidders may include Sinosteel of China, Magnitogorsk Steel of Russia, and two Ukrainian iron ore dressing companies, Inhuletskiy and Poltavsky ore dressing plants, analysts said.

Oct. 25 Yushchenko said UkrTelekom, the national phone company, should probably be the next in the list of state-owned assets that will be sold to investors.

UkrTelekom, which operates local and long-distance and international telephony, has been losing its market share due to the booming cell phone markets, Yushchenko said explaining why the assets must be sold fast.

"There is a list of strategic companies whose privatization is a pressing matter," Yushchenko said. "I would start this list with UkrTelekom."

"The modernization that has taken place on [telecommunications] market day after day is narrowing room for maneuver by UkrTelekom," Yushchenko said. "Unless we conduct privatization fast and effectively, we'll be losing potential that could bring financial benefits."

Yekhanurov said Oct. 25 his government has been already looking into ways of privatizing UkrTelekom, but refused to provide any details.

Ukraine's telecommunications market has been increasingly turning mobile and dominated by two cell phone operators, UMC, owned by MTS of Russia, and Kyivstar, majority owned by Telenor of Norway.

Considering attractiveness of the cell phone segment, the government has been considering allocation of a cell phone license to UkrTelekom before to increase its value before the privatization.

The government owns 92.8% stake in UkrTelekom, while the privatization of 42.8% stake has been repeatedly debated and delayed for almost a decade.

Mill sale to cover Ukraine deficit

Ukraine's government intends to use part of the $4.8 billion to be generated from the sale of the Kryvorizhstal steel mill to cover the 2006 budget deficit, reported Reuters citing Finance Minister Viktor Pynzenyk said on Oct. 24.

In a telephone interview with Reuters, Pynzenyk also said his ministry and the central bank were working together to prevent volatility on the currency market as it absorbs the cash from the sale — an amount equal to half of Ukraine's total net foreign direct investment.

"It was a fantastic tender. It is a good signal for investors," Pynzenyk said after the world's largest steel maker Mittal Steel won a fast-paced auction to buy the 93.02 percent stake in Kryvorizhstal.

"In general, the funds generated will be used as much as possible next year to cover the budget deficit. But we will not go beyond a possible deficit of up to 2 percent," Pynzenyk said.

The government's 2006 draft budget provides for a deficit of 1.9 percent of gross domestic product.

Parliament wants the deficit raised to 3 percent to channel more funds to social benefits ahead of a parliamentary election next March.

"Eating up this money would be the biggest mistake. We will have to withstand high pressure and prevent this money from being simply eaten. We should not increase the deficit, raising current consumption," Pynzenyk said.

Pynzenyk also said the funds from the sale would not be placed in a single portion on the currency market "to minimise the impact of the approximately $5 billion."

Daily trade turnover on Ukraine's currency market stands at about $150 million.

"We will probably devise a scheme when the payment will be made in hard currency," he said. "The government will not come on the market with $5 billion at once."

Kryvorizhstal money threatens forex mkt

(Ukrainian Journal)—The National Bank of Ukraine and the government scrambled on Oct.25 seeking safe ways of converting huge Kryvorizhstal sell-off proceeds into local currency and avoiding a collapse of the forex market, officials said.

Mittal Steel, the world's biggest steel producer, is expected to channel $4.79 billion to the government within some 36 days for a 93% stake in Kryvorizhstal it won at the auction Oct. 24.

The massive cash inflow, which will exceed by 20% the country's total privatization revenue over the past 15 years, may appreciate the hryvnia and spur consumer inflation unless precautionary measures are taken.

Prime Minister Yuriy Yekhanurov met with NBU Governor Volodymyr Stelmakh late on Oct. 24 and Finance Minister Viktor Pynzenyk on Oct. 25 to make sure the special measures are in place before the money starts to arrive.

"The prime minister issued a number of orders to make sure the financial system is balanced out and possible negative shocks are prevented," the government said in a statement Oct. 25.

The hryvnia rose against the U.S. dollar in trading between commercial banks, closing at 5.045 to the dollar Oct. 25 compared with 5.050 the previous session, dealers said.

An inflow of about $1.5 billion from foreign investors buying government bonds in the first quarter has forced the central bank to let the hryvnia rise 2.7% against the dollar overnight April 20.

The appreciation, coupled with other factors, such as weak steel prices on world market, hit the country's exporters badly and contributed to a major slowdown of economic growth in Ukraine, analysts said.

The NBU has been already taking measures to prevent the shocks, including the opening of a special account for the State Property Fund at the central bank, where the proceeds will be channeled to.

The government and the central bank are currently also debating whether Mittal Steel has to channel the cash for the stake in hryvnias or in U.S. dollars, as each of the options creates its own challenges.

Economy Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk said on Oct. 25 Mittal should channel the payment in hryvnias, but cautioned that inflationary pressure will accelerate and called on the central bank to absorb the pressure. Yatseniuk said in the best case scenario Ukraine's inflation will be at about 10% or slightly more in 2005.

Anatoliy Shapoval, the first deputy governor of the NBU, told Reuters on Oct. 25 the inflation will not be a problem if the government doesn't increase spending and budget deficit.

"Of course, we will intervene to prevent a sharp appreciation of the hryvnia," Shapoval said. "Without the central bank's involvement the forex market, commercial banks will not be able to buy it out."

Yushchenko pressed ahead with tender

(Ukrainian Journal)—Three days prior to the Kryvorizhstal, President Yushchenko vowed to go ahead with the tender despite parliament and an ongoing campaign by previous owners to suspend the country's largest selloff.

Yushchenko, at a meeting with Prime Minister Yuriy Yekhanurov, issued a special statement on Kryvorizhstal on Oct. 21, the second such assurance within the four days, underscoring importance of the selloff for the government. The assurances come to alleviate concerns among bidders following Parliament's Oct. 18 resolution calling for the suspension of the auction. Yushchenko said the resolution cannot override a special law that had been earlier approved by Parliament authorizing the selloff. This explains why the president doesn't have to apply a veto on the resolution, analysts said.

"I would like to stress that we absolutely cannot talk about suspending the privatization," Yushchenko said. "All sorts of demagogy on this matter stopped when we had approved the 2005 budget."

The auction faced another setback after a small, newly registered U.S. company, Addox, had suddenly appealed the privatization in a U.S. court.

Both moves were thought to have been masterminded by the previous owners of Kryvorizhstal, Viktor Pinchuk and Rinat Akhmetov, who had bought the stake last year for a fraction of its market value.

Pinchuk, a lawmaker and a leader of a group in Parliament, lobbied for the resolution, as well as a group backed by Akhmetov.

Rada bans poultry imports

(RFE/RL)—The Ukrainian parliament on Oct. 20 imposed a six-month ban on all poultry imports in an attempt to protect the country from bird flu, Ukrainian and international news agencies reported.

The measure was supported by 229 deputies in the 450-seat legislature.

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Peterson wants to boost trade with Ukraine

Plans to launch Canada Days in Ukraine this Spring

(UkrNews)—Canada will increase economic relations with Ukraine and plans to launch Canada Days in Ukraine, an important trade promotion initiative to spur Canadian exports and investments in Ukraine, says International Trade Minister Jim Peterson.

"I think there is incredible potential in that market and I believe that the Orange Revolution has given us an opportunity to see that reforms are made in that country and businesses can be more secure in their operations," he told Ukrainian News in a telephone interview, Oct. 18

"I just think that our commercial relationship could not be much smaller than it is presently. (There are) 1.2 million Canadians of Ukrainian origin, incredible good will, an understanding of the attempts by the Viktor Yushchenko government to promote reforms, to promote liberalization, and I want more Canadians to be part of that great economic future that I believe Ukraine can have," he added.

In 2004, bilateral trade between Canada and Ukraine amounted only to C$218 million.

Minister Peterson said that Canada is interested in enhancing cooperation with Ukraine in a number of sectors. These include agriculture and agri-food; energy; infrastructure~ including transportation by air, rail and roads; information and communications technology; pharmaceuticals; biotechnology; and financial services.

PHOTO — CANADIAN EMBASSY IN UKRAINE

International Trade Minister Jim Peterson announces his plans at the Canadian Embassy in Kyiv. Left to Right: Ukrainian Canadian businessman Myron Spolsky, Canadian Ambassador to Ukraine Abina Dann, Minister Peterson, Ukrainian Canadian lawyer Christine Maciw.

Canada Days in Ukraine, which will be held in May 2006 in Kyiv as well as in Dnipropetrovsk and Lviv, will showcase Canadian goods, services, and know-how in key sectors and will include a delegation of Canadian companies.

Peterson told Ukrainian News he is very interested in any input Ukrainian community organizations can provide with Ukrainian Days.

During his visit, Peterson met with Prime Minister Yuri Yekhanurov and key economic ministers of Ukraine. He also met with the Canadian Business Club in Ukraine, a forum that promotes bilateral trade between the two countries.

Another government retreat on GDP: 2005 growth to be 3.5%, not 4%

(Ukrainian Journal)—The Ukrainian government, for the fourth time over the past four months, revised downwards the country's economic growth forecast, now seeing the expansion at 3.5% vs. 4% on year in 2005.

The new forecast, which has been announced by Prime Minister Yuriy Yekhanurov Oct. 24, comes as a surprise as the economy had recorded a positive growth trend in September.

The economy expanded 3% on the year in September, following a 1.6% on year contraction in August, the State Statistics Committee reported. The growth was at 2.8% on year in January-September, the committee said.

The government first predicted the economy would expand 8.2% on the year in 2005, but the reprivatization policy pursued by former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and a plunge in world in steel prices this year had slowed the economy down.

The government's forecast still presents a better picture compared with that seen by economic analysts. Anders Aslund, a senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, a Washington-based think tank, said Ukraine's economy was likely to expand between 2% and 3% in 2005.

Yekhanurov said the government had expected that steel prices on world markets would start recovering in October, after falling about a third since the year's start. Steel prices are important for Ukraine as steel accounts for about a third of the country's exports. The government expects that the country's $65 bln economy would accelerate growth to 7% on the year in 2006.

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Royal Dutch/Shell interested in Ukraine gas extraction, says Yushchenko

(Ukrainian Journal)—Royal Dutch/Shell seeks to invest in Ukrainian natural gas extraction and will soon hold a meeting with government officials to discuss the projects, President Viktor Yushchenko said Oct. 18.

Yushchenko, on a two-day visit to London, met Shell Executive Director for Exploration and Production, Malcolm Brinded, to discuss the investments, Yushchenko's press service reported.

"Ukraine is interested in big investors effectively working on its market," Yushchenko told Brinded.

Shell may be ready to commit between $50 million and $100 million in annual investments in the exploration projects provided the government issues respective licenses for land plots, Brinded said.

The meeting between Shell, government officials and Naftogaz Ukrayiny, the state oil and gas company, will be held in Kyiv within days to discuss the investments in detail, Yushchenko said.

At the meeting, the parties will apparently discuss exploration of natural gas deposits offshore the Black Sea at the depth of 2,500 to 3,000 meters among other projects.

"Ukraine is the only country on the Black Sea that is still to conduct exploration of its off-shore areas," Yushchenko said, adding the areas are thought to contain "a lot of energy resources."

Shell has been apparently seeking assurances from the government and respective licenses that would enable the company to begin exploration of off-shore and on-shore areas.

Ukraine seeks to encourage investments in domestic energy exploration and extraction to reduce heavy dependence on gas imports from Russia and Turkmenistan. The government mulls to approve a program that will seek to reduce the imports, while instead encouraging investments in domestic production, including in Black Sea offshore areas, officials said.